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Henry VII.

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THE PASTON LETTERS

1422-1509 A.D.

A Reprint of the Edition of 1872-5, which Contained upwards of Five Hundred Letters, etc., till then unpublished, to which are now added others in a Supplement after the Introduction

EDITED BY

JAMES GAIRDNER

Of the Public Record Office

VOLUME III

EDWARD IV.—HENRY VII.

1471-1509 A.D.

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The Paston Letters.

Edward IV.

668.

A.D. 1471, 18 April.

Sir John Paston to Margaret Paston.

[From Fenn, ii. 62.]

This letter, as shown by the contents, was written just four days after the battle of Barnet, by which Edward IV. recovered his throne. It is not signed, but the writer is Sir John Paston.

To my Moodre.

MOODRE, I recomande me to yow, letyng yow wette that, blyssed be God, my brother John is a lyffe and farethe well, and in no perell off dethe. Never the lesse he is hurt with an arow on hys ryght arme, be nethe the elbow; and I have sent hym a serjon, whyche hathe dressid hym, and he tellythe me that he trustythe that he schall be all holl with in ryght schort tyme. It is so that John Mylsent is ded, God have mercy on hys sowle! and Wylliam Mylsent is on lyffe, and hys other servants all be askepyd by all lyklihod.

Item, as ffor me, I ame in good case, blyssyd be God; and in no joparte off my lyffe, as me lyst my self; for I am at my lyberte iff nede bee.

Item, my Lorde Archebysshop[1] is in the Towr;

[1] George Neville, Archbishop of York. It was from the custody of this prelate that Edward escaped, after having been surprised and taken prisoner by the Earl of Warwick, in 1470; perhaps the kind treatment of his then prisoner now procured his pardon.—F.

neverthelesse I trust to God that he schall do well i noghe; he hathe a saffe garde for hym and me bothe. Neverthelesse we have ben troblyd syns, but nowe I undrestande that he hathe a pardon; and so we hope well.

Ther was kyllyd uppon the ffelde, halffe a myle ffrom Bernett, on Esterne Daye, the Erle of Warwyk, the Marqweys Montacu, Sir William Terrell,[1] Sir Lewes Johns, and dyverse other Esquiers off owr contre, Godmerston and Bothe.

And on the Kynge Edwardes partye, the Lord Cromwell,[2] the Lord Saye,[3] Sir Omffrey Bowghsher[4] off owr contre, whyche is a sore moonyd man her, and other peple off bothe partyes to the nombre off mor then a m[l].

As for other tythynges, is undrestande her that the Qwyen Margrett is verrely londyd and hyr sone in the west contre, and I trow that as to morow, or ellys the next daye, the Kynge Edwarde wyll depart ffrom hense to hyr warde, to dryve her owt ageyn.

Item, I beseche yow that I may be recomendyd to my cosyn Lomner, and to thanke hym ffor hys goode wyll to me wardes, iff I had hadde nede, as I undrestoode by the berer heroff; and I beseche you on my behalve to advyse hym to be well ware off hys delyng or langage as yit, ffor the worlde, I ensur yow, is ryght qwesye, as ye schall know with in thys monthe; the peple heer feerythe it soor.

God hathe schewyd Hym selffe marvelouslye lyke Hym that made all, and can undoo ageyn whan Hym lyst; and I kan thynke that by all lyklyod schall schewe Hym sylff as mervylous ageyn, and that in schort tyme; and, as I suppose, offter then onys in casis lyke.

Item, it is soo that my brother is on purveyed off

[1] Sir William Tyrell was cousin to Sir James Tyrell, the afterwards supposed murderer of Edward V. and his brother the Duke of York.—F.

[2] Humphrey Bourchier, third son of Henry, Earl of Essex, had summons ot Parliament, in 1461, as Lord Cromwell, in right of his wife.—F.

[3] William Fienes, Lord Say.

[4] Son of John, Lord Berners.

monye. I have holpyn hym to my power and above. Wherffor as it pleasythe yow remembre hym, ffor kan not purveye ffor my selffe in the same case.

Wretyn at London the thorysdaye in Esterne weke. I hope hastely to see yow.

All thys bylle most be secrett. Be ye not adoghtyd off the worlde, ffor I trust all schall be well. Iff it thusse contenewe, I ame not all undon, nor noon off us; and iff otherwyse, then, &c. &c.

669.

A.D. 1471.—The Earl of Oxford to a Lady.

[From Fenn, ii. 68.]

The signature of this letter is composed of flourishes which were probably devised on purpose to make it unintelligible. Fenn suggests that the first character may be taken for an O, and the last for a D; but to our thinking the resemblance is rather difficult to trace. There is, however, great probability in his conjecture that the writer was the Earl of Oxford, and the date just after the battle of Barnet.

To the ryght reverent and wyrchypfull Lady.[1]

RYGHT reverent and wyrchypfull Lady, I recomande me to yow, lettyng yow wete that I am in gret hevynes at the makyng of thys letter; but thankyd be God, I am eschapyd my selfe, and sodenly departyd fro my men; for I undyrstand my chapleyn wold have detrayed me; and if he com in to the contre, let hym be mad seuer, &c. Also ye shall gyff credence to the brynger of thys letter, and I beseke yow to reward hym to hys costs; for I was not in power at the makyng of thys letter to gyft hym, but as I wass put in trest by favar of strange pepyll, &c.

Also ye shall send me in all hast all the redi money that ye can make, and asse mone of my men asse can com well horsyd; and that they cum in dyverse par-

[1] Margaret, daughter of Richard Neville, Earl of Salisbury, and sister to the late Earl of Warwick, and wife of John de Vere, Earl of Oxford.—F.

cellys. Also that my horsse be sent, with my stele sadelles; and byd the yoman of the horse cover theym with ledder. Also ye shall send to my moder,[1] and let hyr wete of thys letter, and pray hyr of hyr blessyng, and byd hyr send me my kasket, by thys tokyn; that she hathe the key theroff, but it is brokyn.

Also ye shall send to the Pryor of Thetford,[2] and byd hym send me the sum of gold that he seyd that I schuld have. Also sey to hym by thys token, that I schewyd hym the fyrst Prive Seale, &c. Also lete Pastun, Fylbryg, Brews, come to me. Also ye shall delyver the brynger of thys letter an horsse, sadell, and brydell. Also ye schallbe of gud cher, and take no thowght, for I schall brynge my purpose abowte now by the grace of God, Qwhome have yow in kepyng.

O . . . D (?).

670.

A.D. 1471, 30 April.

John Paston of Gelston to Margaret Paston.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

This letter was printed by Fenn in his fifth volume, of which the original MSS. are now recovered. It was evidently written in April 1471, when the writer was recovering from the wound he had received at the battle of Barnet.—*See* No. 668. It is not addressed, but is endorsed in a later hand, "Litera Johannis Paston armigeri matri suæ."

AFTYR humbyll and most dew recomendacyon, in as humbyll wyse as I can, I beseche you of your blyssyng, preying God to reward you with as myche plesyer and hertys ease as I have latward causyd you to have trowbyll and thowght; and, with Godys grace, it shall not be longe to or then my wronges and othyr menys shall be redressyd, for the world was nevyr so lyek to be owyrs as it is now;

[1] Elizabeth, daughter and heir of Sir John Howard, Knight, who was the grandfather of John Howard, first Duke of Norfolk of that name. She was now the widow of John de Vere, late Earl of Oxford.

[2] John Vescey, Prior of Thetford, from 1441 to 1479.—F.

werfor I prey you let Lomnor no be to besy as yet. Modyr, I beseche you, and ye may spare eny money, that ye wyll do your almesse on me and send me some in as hasty wyse as is possybyll; for by my trowthe my leche crafte and fesyk, and rewardys to them that have kept me and condyt me to London, hathe cost me sythe Estern Day [1] more then *vli.*, and now I haue neythyr met, drynk, clothys, lechecraft, ner money but up on borowyng; and I have asayid my frendys so ferre, that they be gyn to fayle now in my gretest ned that evyr I was in. Also, modyr, I beseche yow, and my horse that was at lechecraft at the Holt [2] be not takyn up for the Kynges hawkys,[3] that he may be had hom and kept in your plase, and not to go owght to watyr, nor no whedyr ellys, but that the gat be shet, and he to be chasyd aftyr watyr within your plase, and that he have as myche met as he may ete; I have hey i new of myn owne, and as for otys, Dollys will purvey for hym, or who that dothe it I wyll paye. And I beseche yow that he have every wek iij. boshell of otys, and every day a penyworthe of bred; and if Botoner be not at Norwyche, and Syme kep hym, I shall geve hym well for hys labore. Also that Phelypp Loveday put the othyr horse to gresse ther, as he and I wer acordyd.

Item, that Botoner send me hyddyr the two shyrtys that wer in my casket, and that he send me hydyr xls. by the next messenger that comyth to London.

Item, that Mastress Broom send me hedyr iij. longe gownys and ij. doblettes, and a jaket of plonket chamlett, and a morey bonet out of my cofyr. Sir Jamys hathe the key, as I sent hyr werd be for thys.

Item, that syche othyr wryghtynges and stuff as was in my kasket be in your kepyng, and that no body look my wryghtynges.

Item, that the horse that Purdy hathe of myne be

[1] The battle of Barnet was fought on Easter Day, 14th April 1471.
[2] A pasture so called, and means the groves, or lands full of wood.—F.
[3] This may signify, in jocular language, if he be not dead.—F.

put to some good gresse in haste; and if it plese yow to have knowlage of our royal person, I thank God I am hole of my syknesse, and trust to be clene hole of all my hurttys within a sevennyght at the ferthest, by wyche tym I trust to have othyr tydynges; and those tydynges onys had, I trust not to be longe owght of Norffolk, with Godys grace, Whom I beseche preserve you and your for my part.

Wretyn the last day of Apryll. The berer herof can tell you tydynges, syche as be trew for very serteyn.

Your humbylest servaunt,

J. of Gelston.

671.

A.D. 1471, 4 May.
The Battle of Tewkesbury.

[From MS. Phillipps 9735, No. 279.]

The following paper is in a contemporary handwriting, and undoubtedly refers to the battle of Tewkesbury.

Ded in the Feld.

Edward that was called Prynce.
Lord John of Somerset.
Erle of Devenshire.
Lord Wenlok.
Sir William Vaus.
Sir Edmond Hamden.
Sir John Seymour.
Sir William Bermoth.
Water Barrow.
Mr. William Henmar.
Mr. Feldyng.[1]
Hervy, recorder.[2]
Mr. Herry, capteyn of Brystowe.
Sir Roberte Whetyngham.
Knoyll.

[1] Sir William Fielding, according to Warkworth's Chronicle.

[2] These words, "Hervy, recorder," are written over "Herry, capteyn," as a correction; but the latter are not erased. Warkworth mentions Sir Nicholas Hervy.

Thes be men that were heveded.[1]

The Duke of Somerset.
The Lord of Sent Jones.[2]
Sir Jerveys Clyfton.
Humfrey Awdeley.
Lowes Miles.
Forey of Fraunce.
Sir John Delvys.[3]
Lord Foskew on lyffe.
Sir William Carre.
Sir Hew Courteney.
Sir Thomas Tressham.
Sir Herry Tressham.
Sir William Newbery.
Mr. Gower.[4]
Mr. Awdeley.[5]
Robert Clerke.
Lechefeld, mason of Westmynster.
Sir William Grymesby yet on lyffe.

Thes be the Knyghtes that the Kyng mad in the Feld.

Lord Cobham.
Sir George Nevel.
Sir Philip Courtenay.
Sir Herry Bemonde.
Sir Moreys of Barkley.
Sir Richard Hastynges.
Sir Roberte Haryngton.
Sir Thomas Gray.
Sir James Terell.
Sir John Feres.
Sir Herry Feres.
Sir Herry Purpeynt.
Sir John Parre.
Sir John Downe.
Sir Roger Kyngstone.
Sir Richard Croft.
Sir John Pylkyngton.
Sir John Byngham.
Sir John Harley.
Sir John Boteler.
Sir Christofer Morysby.
Sir John Clay.
Sir Robert Wylleby.
Sir Robert Grene.
Sir Roger Ree.
Sir Richard Radclyffe.
Sir John Saundes.
Sir Thomas Strikelande.
Sir George Browne.
Sir William Motton.

[1] Beheaded. [2] Sir John Longstruther, Prior of St. John's.
[3] Originally written "Mr. Delvys," and corrected.
[4] James Gower, according to Warkworth. [5] Sir Humphrey Audeley.

Sir John Crokere.
Sir —— Skerne.
Sir James Crowmere.
Sir William Sandalle.
Sir John Deverys.
Sir Herry Grey.
Sir Edward Wodehous.
Sir Tery Robsert.
Sir Thomas Cromewell.
Sir Robert Corbet.
Sir Nicholas Langford.
Sir John Seyntlowe.
Sir William Brandon.

672.

A.D. 1471, 5 July.
John Paston to Margaret Paston.

[From Fenn, iv. 116.]

From the mention of Lord Scales in this letter it might be supposed that it was written not later than the year 1469, when Anthony Woodville, the last Lord Scales, became Earl Rivers by the death of his father: but I believe the date to be 1471, and that the writer is simply speaking of Earl Rivers by his old title. In the first place there is no appearance of either of the John Pastons requiring a royal pardon before the year 1471; secondly, it is not probable that either of them would have spoken so slightingly of the value of Lord Scales's intercession at an earlier period; and thirdly, it seems doubtful whether Edmund Paston could have been old enough to own a war-horse many years before. Finally, we find by Letter 674 following that John Paston, the youngest, succeeded in obtaining a pardon signed by the King on the 17th July 1471. If the reference to the autograph plate in Fenn is correct, this letter was in the hand of his elder brother, Sir John Paston, Knight; but as it is not signed, like most of his letters, "John Paston, K.," we are inclined to suspect that it was really written by the younger brother, like No. 674.

MOST worchepfull and my ryght specyall good modyr, as humbylly as I can, I recomand me on to yow, besechyng yow of your blyssyng. Please it yow to undyrstand that thys day I spake with Batcheler Water, whiche let me have undyrstandyng of your welfare, wherof I thank God with all my hert. Also he leet me have knowlage that the Lord Scalys had grauntyd yow to be my good lord, wherof I am no thyng prowd, for he may do leest with the gret mastyr; but he wold depert ovyr the see, as hastyly as he may; and because he wenyth that I wold go with hym, as I had promyseyd hym evyr, and he had kept foorthe hys jornay at that tyme, thys is the cause that he wyll be my good lord and help to get my pardon. The Kyng is not best pleasyd with

hym for that he desyerthe to depert, in so myche that the Kyng hathe seyd of hym, that wen evyr he hathe most to do, then the Lord Scalys wyll sonest axe leve to depert, and weenyth that it is most be cause of kowardyese. As for pardon, I can never get, withowght I schold paye to myche money for it, and I am not so purveyd. As for Herry Hallman, my brodyr wyll axe hym no sylver tyll ye be payeyd; therfor ye may send to hym and have it.

Item, I am sory that ye have fadyrd my hors that was at Caster to be my Brodyr Edmundys, for I had leveer that they had hym style then owght ellys; wherfor thow they profyr hym yow from hense foorthe, let not my brodyr Edmund take hym, but let him sey whedyr they wyll let hym have hym or not, that I have promyseyd my brodyr Edmund a bettyr hors for hym, so that he wyll not cleyme the same for hys. As for tydyngs her be non but that the Scottys and Walyshe men be besy; what they meane I can not seye. My cosyn John Loveday can tell yow, and ther be eny odyr flyeyng talys, for he hathe walkyd in London, and so do not I. When I may I wyll come hom with Godys grace, whom I beseche to sende you your hertys desyeyr. Wretyn the v. daye of Julle.

Be yowr humblest sone and servant,

J. P.

673.

A.D. 1471, 12 July.—Abstract.

[From MS. Index in Magd. Coll., Oxford.]

Norff. and Suff. Deeds, No. 5. "Relaxatio Johannis Paston militis, Davidi Husband et Will. Gyfford totius juris in maneriis de Saxthorp, Tichwell, Haineford, Essex in Hickling, &c., Calcote, Leystoft, Habland, Broweston, Gorleston alias Spitlings, quæ quondam fuerunt Johannis Fastolf mil., et quæ Will. Waynflet episcopus Winton' habuit ex dono Rad. Boteler domini de Sudley, et prædicti David et Willielmus ex dono episc. prædicti

necnon de et in 25 *markes redd.* precipiend. de priori de Hickling. Julii 12, Edw. IV. 11. With a scedule annexed touching the same release."

674.

A.D. 1471, 17 July.
John Paston to Margaret Paston.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

This letter refers to a pardon granted by the King to John Paston the younger, for having taken part with the Lancastrians at the battle of Barnet. Though the "bill" for this pardon was signed by the King on the 17th July, pardon itself did not pass the Great Seal till the 7th February following, under which date it is enrolled on the Pardon Roll of 11 Edw. IV., memb. 9.

To my most worchepfull Modyr, Margaret Paston, be thys delyveryd in hast.

RYGHT worchepfull modyr, I recomand me to yow, and as lowly as I can, I beseche yow of yowr blyssyng. Please yow to undyrstand that thys Wednysday Sir Thomas Wyngffeld sent to me, and let me wet that the Kyng had syngnyd my bylle of perdon, whyche the seyd Sir Thomas delyveryd me; and so by Fryday, at the forthest, I tryst to have my perdon enseallyd by the Chanceler, and soone aftyr, so as I can fornyshe me, I tryst to se yow, if so be that eny of the Kynges hows com in to Norwyche. I wold fayne my gray horse wer kept in mewe for gnattys. Also, modyr, I beseche yow that Dollys and his felawe may be sent to, that I may have my money redy ayenst that I come home, whyche is dew to be payid, for thys mater hathe cost me the settyng over. Also that it may please yow that Purdy at Heylysdon maye be sent to for the horse that he hathe of myne, and that the horse may be kept well, and have as myche mete as he wyll eate be twyx thys and that I come home, and that Jakys nage have mete i now also. Also, and Syr Thomas Wyngfeld come to Norwyche, that he may

have as good chere as it please yow to make on to that man that I am most behold to for hys gret kyndnesse and good wyll, for he takyth full my part ayenst my gretest enmyeys, Brandons and hys brodyr William; for at my fyrst comyng to Sir Thomas Wyngfeld, bothe William Wyngfeld and William Brandon the yonger wer with Sir Thomas, and had gret wordys to myn owne mowthe, and in cheff W. Wyngfeld; and wher so evyr he may met me on evyn grownd he wyll do myche; but and we met evynly, no fors, so I have yowr blyssyng. I prey yow, with owght it be to my Lady Calthorp, let ther be but fewe woordys of thys perdon. No more, but I prey God preserve yow and yours.

Wretyn the Wednysday next before Mary Mawdelen,

By your humblest sone, J. P.

675.

A.D. 1471, 15 Sept.
Sir John Paston to John Paston.

[From Fenn, ii. 72.]

Apart from the reference to John Paston's pardon, the date of this letter is fixed by what is said of the bastard Falconbridge.

To Mestresse Margret Paston, or to John Paston, Esqier, hyr sone, in hast.

RYGHT well belovyd brother, I comende me to yow, letyng yow wete that I am in wellffar, I thanke God, and have ben evyr syns that I spake last with yow; and mervayle for that ye sent never wryghtynge to me syns ye departyd; I herde nevyr synes that tyme any worde out off Norffolk; ye myght aft Bertlemai Feyr[1] have had messengers i nowe to London, and iff ye had sent to Wykys, he scholde have conveyed it to me. I herde yisterdaye, that a Worsted man of Norffolk, that solde

[1] Bartholomew Fair, in Smithfield.

worstedys[1] at Wynchester, seyde that my Lord of Norffolk and my Lady wer on pylgrymage at Our Lady[2] on ffoot, and so they went to Caster; and that at Norwyche on scholde have had large langage to yow, and callyd yow traytor, and pyked many quarellys to yow. Sende me worde ther off; it wer well doo, that ye wer a lytell sewrer off yowr pardon than ye be: avyse you, I deme ye woll her afftr ellys repent yow.

I undrestonde that Bastarde Fauconbryge[3] is owther hedyd or lyke to be, and hys brother bothe; some men seye he wolde have deservyd it, and som sey naye.

I purpose to be att London the ffyrst daye off the terme; send me worde whethyr ye schall be ther or nott.

Item, I wolde wete whether ye have spoken wyth my Lady off Norffolk or not, and off hyr disposicion and the howsoldys to me and to yow wardes, and whether it be a possible to have Caster ageyn and ther goodewylles or not; and also I praye yow undrestande what ffelaschyp and guydyng is in Caster, and have a spye resortyng in and owt, so maye ye know the secretys among them. Ther is moche adoo in the Northe, as men seyn; I pray yow be ware off yowr guydyng, and in cheff off yowr langage, and so that ffro hense fforthe by yowr langage noo man perceyve that ye ffavor any person contrary to the Kynges plesur. I undrestonde that the Lord Ryvers hathe lycence off the Kynge to goo to Portyngale now within thys vij. nyght. I pray yow recomande mo to my modre, and beseche hyr off hyr blyssyng on my be halve.[4] . . . . . .

Item, I praye yow sende me worde iff any off owr ffrendys or wellwyllers be dede, ffor I feer that ther is

[1] Worsted, in Norfolk, a town formerly famous for the spinning of the fine thread with which the yarn called Worsted is made.—F.

[2] Of Walsingham.

[3] Thomas Nevill, a natural son of William, Lord Fauconberg. He was beheaded in 1471, and, as mentioned in Letter 676 following, his head was placed on London Bridge.

[4] Here follow, says Fenn, some directions about payments of money.

grete dethe in Norwyche, and in other Borowgh townese in Norffolk, ffor I ensur you it is the most unyversall dethe that evyr I wyst in Ingelonde; ffor by my trowthe, I kan not her by pylgrymes that passe the contre, nor noon other man that rydethe or gothe any contre, that any Borow town in Ingelonde is ffree ffrom that sykenesse; God sease it whan it pleasyt Hym. Wherffor, ffor Goddysake, let my moodre take heede to my yonge brytheren that they be not in noon place wher that sykenesse is regnyng, nor that they dysport not with noon other yonge peple whyche resortythe wher any sykenesse is, and iff ther be any off that sykenesse ded or enffect in Norwyche, ffor Goddes sake, lete hyr sende them to som ffrende off hyrse in to the contre, and do ye the same by myn advyce; late my moodre rather remeve hyr howsesolde in to the contre.

Even now Thyrston browt me word ffro London that it was Doctor Aleyn that cawsyd yowr troble that ye had at Norwych; and that John Pampyng roode ffor a dyscharge ffor yow, and that he hathe sped well, but howghe, that wot I nott; iff ye be cleer owt off Doctor Aleyn danger, kepe yow ther, and her afftr ye maye schoffe as well at hys carte. I praye yow sende me worde off all the fforme off hys delyng with yow.

I had almost spoke with Mestresse Ann Hault, but I dyd not; nevyrthelesse thys next terme I hope to take on weye with hyr or other; sche is agreyd to speke with me, and sche hopythe to doo me ease as sche saythe.

I praye yow sende me worde hoghe ye doo with my Lady Elysabeth Boghscher; ye have a lytell chaffyd it, but I can not tell howe; sende me worde whether ye be in better hope or werse. I her seye that the Erle off Oxenffordys bretheryn be goon owt off Sceyntewarye. Sir Thomas Fulfforthe[1] is goon owt off Sceyntewarye, and a gret ffelaschyp ffettchyd hym, a iij.^{xx}, and they sey that with in v. myle off London he was CC. men; and no man watethe wher he is become not yit.

[1] Sir Thomas Fulford was son of Sir Baldwin Fulford, beheaded at Bristol in 1461; he likewise ended his life on the scaffold.

The Lordes Hastyngs and Howerd be in Caleys, and have it pesebely; and Sir Walter Wrettesle and Sir Jeffrey Gate be comyn thense, and woll be at London thys daye as it is seyde.

Wretyn at Waltham besyd Winchester the daye nex Holy Roode Daye.[1]

J. P., K.

676.

A.D. 1471, 28 Sept.
Sir John Paston to John Paston.

[From Fenn, ii. 80.]

The evidences of date in this letter are the same as in the last.

To hys well belovyd John Paston, Esquier, at Norwyche, or to Mestresse Margret, his Modre.

I COMANDE me to yow, letyng yow weet that, &c.[2] . . . . . I wolde ffayne have the mesur wher my ffadre lythe at Bromholm; bothe the thyknesse and compase off the peler at hys hed, and ffrom that the space to the alter, and the thyknesse off that alter, and imagery off tymbre werk; and what hyght the arche is to the grounde off the ilde, and how hye the grounde off the qwyr is hyer than the grownde off the ilde.

Item, I praye yowe late the mesur by pekthred be taken or elt mesured by yerde, how moche is ffrom the northe gate, ther the brygge was, at Gressham to the sowthewall, and in lyke fforme ffrom the este syde to the west, also the hyght off the estewall, and the hyght of the sowthest towr ffrom the grownde, iff ye maye easely. Also what bredde every towr is within the wall, and whych towr is moor then other within.

[1] Holyrood Day, 14th of September.

[2] Here follows an account that the Duchess of Suffolk and Duke of Norfolk intend again commencing appeals against Sir John Paston and his brother, &c. concerning Caister, &c.—F.

Alsso how manye ffote, or what brede eche towr takythe within iche corner off the quadrate[1] ovyrthwert the dorys, and how many taylors yards is from the moote syde, wher the brygg was, to the hyghe weye, or to the heddge all a longe the entre, and what brede the entre is be twyen the dykys. I praye yow, iff ye have a leyser in any wyse, se thys doone yowrselffe iff ye maye; or ellys iff Pampyng do it, or who that ye thynke can doo it, I wolle spende xx*d.* or as ye seme to have the sertayn off every thyng her in. And as for my ffaders tombe, I charge yow se it yowr selffe, and when I speke with yow I woll tell yow the cawses why that I desyr thys to be doon.

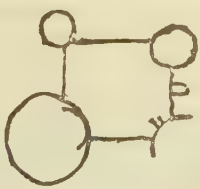
As ffor tydyngs, the Kyng, and the Qwyen, and moche other pepell, ar ryden and goon to Canterbery, nevyr so moche peple seyn in Pylgrymage hertofor at ones, as men seye.

Alsso it is seyde that the Erle of Penbroke[2] is taken on to Brettayn; and men saye that the Kynge schall have delyvere off hym hastely, and som seye that the Kynge off France woll se hym saffe, and schall sett hym at lyberte ageyn.

Item, Thomas Fauconbrydge hys hed was yesterdaye sett uppon London Brydge, lokyng into Kent warde; and men seye that hys brother was sor hurte, and scope to seyntwarye [*sanctuary*] to Beverle.

Sir Thomas Fulfforthe escaped owt of Westminster with an C. sperys, as men seye, and is in to Devenshyr;

[1] A drawing is here given in the original letter, apparently designed as a plan of the quadrangle at Gresham, oi which the subjoined is a facsimile.



[2] Jasper Tudor.

and ther he hathe strekyn off Sir John Crokkers hed, and kylt an other knyght off the Corteneys, as men seye. I wolde ye hadd yowr verry pardon at onys; wherfor I praye yow ffayle not to be at London within iiij. daye afftr Seynt Feythe;[1] ye schall do goode in many thynges, and I praye yow sende me worde heroff by the next massenger; and if it come to Mestresse Elysabeth Hyggens, at the Blak Swan, sche schall conveye it to me, ffor I woll not ffayle to be ther at London ageyn within thys vj. dayes.

Mestresse Elysabeth hathe a son, and was delyveryd within ij. dayes afftr Seynt Bertelmew;[2] and hyr dowtr A. H. was the next daye afftr delyveryd off an other sone, as sche seythe, xj. weks er hyr tyme; it was crystened John, and is ded. God save all! No mor tyll I speke with yow.

Wretyn at London on Mychellmesse Evyn.

J. P., K.

Item, I praye yow late some wytty felaw, or ellys yowrselff, goo to the townes ther as thes ij. women dwelle, and inquire whether they be maryed syns and ageyn or not, ffor I holde the hoorys weddyd; and iff they be, than the appelys wer abbatyd ther by. I remembr not ther names; ye knowe them better then I. Alsso in the Schreffvys bookys ther maye ye ffynde off them.

677.

A.D. 1471, 21 Oct.

R. L. to John Paston.

[From Fenn, iv. 440.]

In the postscript to the preceding letter, Sir John Paston intimates his belief that the two widows who had appealed his brother of the murder of their husbands had married again, and that thereby the appeals were abated. It appears by the present letter that this intelligence was correct as regards one of them.

[1] 5th of October. [2] 24th of August

To hys worshipfyl master, John Paston, Esquier.

RYGHT wurchupfull ser, I comaund me to your good maysterchepe, &c. Plese it you to understond that Redford desyryd me on your byhalfe that I chuld goo and comon with the woman that was the fullars wyfe of South Walsham, whech woman is now maryed to on Thom Styward, dwellyng in the parysch of Seynt Gyll in Norwych, whech woman seyd to me that che sewyd never the pele, but that she was by sotyle craft brought to the New In at Norwych, and ther was Maystir Southwell, and he entretyd hyr to be my Lords wewe [*widow*],[1] by the space of an hole yer next folwyn, and therto he mad hyr to be bowne in an obligacyon. And whan that yer was past he desyred hyr to be my Lords wedow another yer; and than she seyd that she had lever lose that that she had do, than to lose that and meer; and therfor she seyd pleynly that she wold no mor of that mater. And so she toke hyr an husbond, whech is the seyd Thom Styward; and she seyth that it was full sor ageyn hyr wylle that ever the mater went so forforth, for she had never non avayle therof, butt it was sewyd to hyr gret labor and losse, for she had never of my Lords councell, but berely hyr costs to London. No mor, but God have you in Hys kepyng.

Wretyn at Norwych, the Monday next after the Fest of Seynt Luke.

By your servant, R. L.

678.

A.D. 1471, 28 Oct.
JOHN PASTON TO MARGARET PASTON.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

There was a general pardon in the latter part of the year 1471, and both John Paston and his brother took advantage of it, as appears by the Pardon

[1] The widow of a tenant in chivalry was called the Lord's widow

Roll 11 Edw. IV., membranes 9 and 25. The date of this letter is also shown by the answer to it, written by Margaret Paston on the 5th November. Many of the words in this letter are lost by the mutilation of the original MS., which is full of holes, from having been exposed at one time to damp. The address is almost completely lost, but a portion of the word "[Ma]rgaret" is visible, and a small fragment of an endorsement below in which the word "Paston" is legible.

RYGHT worchepfull m[other, as lowly as] I can I recomand me to yow, besechyng yow of your dayly blyssyng, praying yow to take thys key, and Sir Jam[ys] . . . . [m]y broder E., or J. Pampyng, and to ondo the kofyr that standith at my bedys feet, and ther in a ly[tyl sqw]are box ye shall fy[nd two de]dys, wher of the seallys be wownd in whyght paper; my brodyr E. sye [*saw*] when I wond them up. The tone [begy]nyth "Sciant, &c. quod ego *Matilda Bigota*"; and the todyr begynyth "Sciant, &c. quod ego *Rogerus* . . . ." [I pray y]ow lett [them be] sealyd and sent me by *Radley* with the deedes there in. Sir Jamys knowyth the . . . . . But [if so] be that ye fynd not thys box with thes two deedes in that cofyr, then I prey yow take the k[ey] . . . . . teye of the same cofyr, and opyn the cofyr that standyth in the utter chambyr, and ther ye shall fynd . . . . . [d]edes. My brodyr, Sir John, recomandyth hym to yow, and besechyth yow of your blyssyng; and as for hys mater [there is yet no conclu]syon of no poynt, but I tryst ther shall be with in thes ij. dayeys. Jenney, W. trowbly[th] . . . . . [my] brodyrs servauntes with old accyons and all syche thynges as he can renew to stoppe the oblygacio[ns w]hyche he is bownd in on to my broder; but all shall be easeyd, I tryst. As for Mrs. A. Hawlt, the mater is mevyd [by div]ers of the Qwenys consayll, and of ferre by R. Hault, but he wold it shold be fyrst of our mocyon, and we wold [it] shold com of theym fyrst; our mater shold be the bettyr.

Tydynges, ther is a generall pardon mevyd whyche my brodyr J. trystyth to have the preve[lege] of as

soone as it is grantyd, whyche shall bee a bowght All Halow tyed at the ferthest. I have spok with my L[ord Rive]rs and with all myn old aqweyntance, and have good cheer of theym, hold as it maye. When we be conclud[yd in] eny poynte of our maters, ye shall have knowlage ther howhe to put yow in [comfort] er we have eny . . . but in veyn when we have comfort ye shall have parte. Newe tydynges, datys s . . . [s]ugyr of Mr. Kwte (?) x*d.* di.lb., and bettyr I tryst. No more, but I beseche God preserve yow and yours.

Wretyn on [Seint] Symondes Day and Jwde.

Your humblest sone and servaunt,

J. PASTON.

679.

SIR JOHN PASTON'S DEEDS.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

The following inventory is in the handwriting of Sir John Paston. The date at which it was drawn up must, from internal evidence, be later than the 10th year of Edward IV.; so perhaps it may be a list of the contents of the coffer mentioned by John Paston in Letter 678.

In the square trussyng coffre.

A boxe with evydence off my place in Fletstrett.
A lytell box with obligacions off the Archbisshop off York and W. Jennyes oblygacion.
A box with evydence of Tytlyshall.
A box with the letter of attorney off Fastolffes londes by Sir John Paston.
j. A box de actis inter episcopum Wynt' et J. P. militem. Item endentur' de argento mutuato termino Trinitatis anno x^o^, et testamentum W. Paston, Justic'.
Item, ij. pixides de novis cartis de terris Fastolffes.
Item, a litell box with the obligacion off T. Fastolff and one off James Gresham.
Item, a box with the dede off gyfft off J. P., and the byll assygnyd for the dyamant.
Item, the bagge de placitis in usu.
Item, the bagge with ger taken owt off my caskett.
Item, a bagge with the bondell where on was wreten "London."
Item, a bagge with evydence off Est Bekham.
Item, a bondell de actis parlimenti et de excambia in Paston.

Item, a bondell de actis Cantuariensis.
Item, a bondell de fyrma Caster Berdolffis.
The endenture off Snaylwell by Wylleys.
A bondell of Gresham Moleyns.
A bondell off processe off th'eschekyr letter and byllys sirca (*sic*) festum Johannis anno ixo.
Item, th'endenture off W. Jeney. Item, a bondell off letteris and byllis anno xo.
A bondell with inquisicions not returnyd in to the Chanceri.
Copia voluntatis Fastolff ultima et probata.
Enventorium (*sic*) apud Caster per Episcopum Norwic' et dominum de Scales et alia ad rediseisinam (?)
Apunctuamentum Regis et litera amici. Endentura de Fennes per patrem Hugonis Fenne.
The verray endenture off my mariage.
Item, a bondell off letteris from my brother John.
Item, iij. billis, the endenter of W. Jenney for Bacton, a byll of Wylleys and one off J. Owdin (?)
Item, a bondell with the names off them that had stoff from Heylesdon.
Item, a byll off Sweynesthorp. Item, a byll off Brok off Dedham off the purchace theroff, a quitance pro Scaccario.
A bonde towchyng the probatt off Fastolffes will, with mi olde testament.
A copie off a generalle releffe de terris Fastolffes.

680.

A.D. 1471 (?), 4 Nov.—Abstract.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

William Pekoc to Sir John Paston.

Has received Wheteley's letter, but though he has spoken to Sir John's tenants at Paston, Bakton, &c., has obtained no money to send him. They are better pleased to pay Sir John than Master "Will. P.," so they be saved harmless. Has put them in good comfort, and Sir John must take care that they be not sued this term. The fishing was never worse. No herring to be got under 13*s.* 4*d.* a barrel, and 8*s.* 4*d.* a cade. The swans were sent the week after your departure. John Osborn and Munde are merry. None dead at Caster and Mawteby since Michaelmas, but much mortality still at Fylby, Ormysby, and Scrowby.

Mawteby, 4 Nov.

[This letter most probably belongs to the year 1471, which it will be seen by the letter immediately following was a year of great mortality.]

681.

A.D. 1471, 5 Nov.
Margaret Paston to John Paston.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

This letter is not addressed, but was evidently written to John Paston in answer to No. 678. The date is ascertained by the fact that John Berney of Witchingham died in the year 1471.

GRETE you wele, and send you Goddes blyssyng and myn, letyng you wete that myn Cosyn Clere hathe sent to me for the C. marc that I borwed of her for your brother. It fortuned so that a frend of her of late hath loste better than CCC. marc, and he sent to her for money, and she had non that she myght comyn by, and ther for she sent to me for the seyd C. marc; and I know not how to do therfor, for by my trowth I have it not, nor I can not make shyft therfor, and I shuld go to preson; therfor comune with your brother her of, and send me word how that he wull make shyft ther for in hast. I must elles nedes sell all my woods, and that shall dysse avayll him better than a CC. marc, and I dey; and if I shuld selle them now, ther wull noman gewe so myche for them be ner an C. marc as they be worth, be cause ther be so many wood sales in Norfolke at thys tyme. Therfor lete hym make purvyaunce therfor in hast, as he wull have my good wyll, and wull that I save hym the seyd woods to the better a wayll, and send me word here of in hast if ye wull my welfare, for I shall never be in quiete tille I k[n]owe an ende in thys, for she hath therfor an obligacion of an C*li.* And it is not kepte cloos, ther be many persones now k[n]owyn it, which me semyth a greet rebuke to me that I departyd so largely with yowr brother that I reservyd not to pay that I was endaungered for hym, and so have dyverse seyd to me which of late have k[n]owyn it; and whan I remembre it, it is to myn hart a very spere, consideryng that he never gave comforte therein, ner of all the

money that hath be reseyvyd wull never make shyft therfor. And he had yet be for thys tyme have sent me l. marc thereof, yet I wuld have thought that he had had summe consideracion of myn daungers that I have put me in for hym. Remembre hym how that I have excusyd hym of xx*li.* that the Prior of Bromholm had, which shuld elles have be in that daunger that it shuld have be to us a grete rebwke, with hought that he myght a ben holpyn wyth shuch money as he shuld have had of your fadyrs bequest; and I payd to the shereffe for hym also money. All thes shuld have holpe me wele therto, be syde other thynges that I have bor thys yeres that I speke not of; there fore lete hym helpe me now, or elles it shall dysawayll hym better than the trebyll the money, wheder that I leve or dey, with ought he hath better consideracion to the daungers that I stond in. Also I wulde ye shuld meve hym to take John Pampyng to hym, or elles to gete hym a servyce in the Chauncery, or in sume other place where as he myth be preferryd, for it ys pety that he lesyth hys tyme so her, and it is non a wayll to non of ws, and for diverse othyr thyngs whesch ye shall knowe her after, I wolde that I war hens in haste, for all maner of happys, constrw ye, &c. I can yw thanke for ywyr lettyr that ye sente me, and that ye have inquiryd of shwch thynges as ye thynk that shwld plese me. I send yow the boxe and the dedes that ye sente to me for, but as for the key of the cofyr in the wtter chambyr I can not fynd yt; yf the boxe had be ther in, ye cwdnat not have hadd yth but yf [*unless*] I had broke wp the cofyr; ther for remembre yw wer ye have do the key; I kep styll the key that ye sente me tyll that ye cwm home.

As for the tydynges here, ywr cosyn Barney of Wychshynggham ys passyd to Gode, hwm Gode asoyle. Veylys wife, and Lodonys wife, and Pycard the bacar of Twmlond, ben gone also; all thys hwlsold and thys parych ys as ye leftyd, blyssyd be Gode; we lewyn in fer, but we wut not qweder to fle, for to be better than we ben here. I send yw demi a riale for to by

wyth swger[1] and dates for me. I pray yw do as wel as ye can, and sende it me as hastely as ye may, and sende me word qwat price a *li.* of peppyr, clowys, masis, gingyr, and sinamun, almannys, ryse, ganyngal, safrwn, reysonys of Corons, grenys,[2] of ych of these sende me the pryce of ych of these,[3] and yf that it be bettir shepe at London than it is here, I shal sende yw mony to bye wyth soch stwfe as I wull have. Remember that I spake to yw to spek to ywyr brother for the seyd C. marc wan ye departed hens. I trow ye forgettyt, that ye sent me non answer ther of in ony wye. Lete me have an answer ther of in hast, and sende me woord how ywyr brother and ye sped in ywyr maters; and Goddes blissyng and myn mut ye have both, and send yw good sped in all ywyr maters.

Wretyn in hast on Sent Levnards Eve.[4]

By ywyr Moder.

682.

A.D. 1471, Nov.—Bill of Costs.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

Termino Sancti Michaelis Anno xjo E. iiijti pro Ricardo Calle deff' versus Willelmum Huggan q. in placito trans'.

In primis, for a copy of the bill, . . .		iiij*d.*
Item, for makyng of the awnswer to Mr. Pygot, Mr. Fayrefax, and to Mr. Hosy, . . .	x*s.*	
Item, wyne and perys at tavern ij. tymes, . .		xiiij*d.*
Item, for a copy of record in the Kynges Bench,	iij*s.*	iiij*d.*
Item, for pledyng of the record in the Kynges Bench a yenst Wyll. Huggan, ...	x*s.*	
Item, gyven to Hosey, the xxvij. day of the same moneth, for to enparle[5] to the bill, . . .	iij*s.*	iiij*d.*
Item, the xxx. day of October, for the copy of the tytelyng of Huggans plee, ...		iiij*d.*

[1] In Fenn's edition this is printed "swgar, feg, and dats." The word "feg" is not in the MS. It seems to be a misreading of "swg'" (sugar), which the transcriber forgot to cancel.

[2] F. adds "and comfyts," but the words are not in the MS.

[3] F. reads "the price of a *li.*," but this is not in the MS.

[4] F. adds a sentence after the date, which is not in the MS.

[5] To *imparl*, a technical expression, meaning to obtain time to plead.

Item, for wyne at [the] Cardenall Hatte[1] the same day, ... vj*d.*
Item, the iiij. day of November, gyven to Mr. Fayrfax and Mr. Hosey for puttyng yn of the replicacyon, ... vj*s.* viij*d.*
Item, the x. day of November, gyven to Mr. Fayrfax, Mr. Pygotte, and Mr. Hosey, for the seyng of the paper, and comenyng of the issewe a yenst Wyll. Huggan, ... x*s.*
Item, for the wyne at the Cardenall Hatte, . [2]viij*d.*
Item, for the entre of the aunswere a yenst Huggan by Ric. Calle, payd to Sandys, . . . v*s.*
Item, to Nedersole for makyng of the paper, . ij*s.* vj*d.*
Item, for the copy of the same, ... ij*s.* vj*d.*
Summa totalis, lvj*s.* iiij*d.*

683.

A.D. 1471, 18 Nov.

Edmund Paston to John Paston.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

This is but the fragment of a letter of which the address is lost, but it seems to have been intended for the writer's brother John Paston. In a letter to him, written on the 29th November 1471, his mother, Margaret, apologises for not sending money for a runlet of wine she had desired him to purchase for her, on account of the number of thieves stirring. It will be seen that she made the request by means of her son Edmund in this letter.

. . . . . .
. . . . . me one of xij*d.* . . . .
. . . . . .
. . . . to lend me a gown . . . . . .
. . . . . .
a bowthe, [and] I pray zow be at schesyng [*at the choosing?*] . . . . . .
hys hed that is schoryle (?) in Englyshe yt is a terme . . . . . .
Pampyng recummawnd hym to zow and pray zow that ze wyl . . . . . .

[1] A tavern in Southwark. The name is still preserved in Cardinal Hat Alley.
[2] *N.B.*—Under viij*d.* is written "46*s.* 4*d.*" in a different hand

[m]ony, he pray zow to delyver Parkar xs. that he howyth hym . . . . . .
. . . [Go]ddes blyssyng and heres, and prays zow that ze wyl bye her a runlet . . . . . e
no mony sche byd that ze schuld borow of my brother Sir John . . . . . .
[he]r woord as hastely as ze have yt, and sche schale send zow mony . . . . . .
that yt schuld be woond in a canvasse for brochyng of the caryars [for sche] sethe th[at sche] . . . .
. . . men served soo before. Also I pray zow yf ze speke with Master Roger, tell hym that yf he cum in thys cuntre thys Crystemas he schal have hys x*s*, and yf that he cum not I schal send yt hym be xij. day [*Twelfth Day*] at the fardest. I pray zow hartely remembyr my gere, and that ze wyl desyer Wylliam Mylsant on my be halve to purvey for the caryage in as hasty wyse as yt can. Also I pray zow that the welvet that levyt of my typet may be send home a geyn, for I woold strype a dobelet ther with. As for Masteres Blakeny I trow sche be in zour quarters. I wold I had the same entyrpryce upon hyr that John Bramppton of Atylborowe had up on Mastere Bryston. Alle the coorte recummawnddes hem to zow. I pray zow, and ze can get me any profytabyl servyce, a saye[1] my brother, Sir John was meved of my hawnt Ponyngges to have bene with her. I woold have rytgh an hesy servyse tyl I were owthe of detes. God have zow in Hys kepyng. Wretyn at Norwyche the Munday nex be fore Sen Edmond the Kyng.

EDMOND PASTON.

On the back of this letter occur the following memoranda:—

In primis, to the pryncypall of Stapyll In, . . .	v*s.*
Item, for iiij. lasys, ...	viij*d.*
Item, for iij. doseyn poyntes, ...	vj*d.*
Item, for a plonket ryban, ...	vj*d.*

[1] There should perhaps be a full stop here, but there is no punctuation in the original.

684.

A.D. 1471 (?), 20 Nov.—Abstract.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

[Margaret Paston] to her Son [Sir John Paston].

Wonders she has no answer to her letter by Ric. Raddeley. Wants him and his brother to get a discharge from my Lord of Canterbury, "for occupying of your father's goods." If my Lord died before we got it, his successor might be "more hasty upon us than he hath been." My Lord knows the great charges we have had since he deceased, which have caused the goods to be spent. If any of us were to die, no one would take charge for us unless we have a discharge. Remember the spices and malmsey I have sent to you for.

St. Edmund's Day the King.

Sealed.

[At the date of this letter, Sir John Paston and his brother John were together in London, and apparently the Archbishop of Canterbury was seriously ill. Of the latter fact we have no certain knowledge, but it appears by a subsequent letter that there was a report of his death in June 1472, and the two brothers were certainly in London together in November of the year preceding. It is probable therefore that the Archbishop was ill of the epidemic which prevailed in the latter part of 1471 and the spring of 1472. The two brothers were not together in November 1472.]

685.

A.D. 1471, 29 Nov.

Margaret Paston to John Paston.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

St Andrew's Eve, the 29th November, fell on a Friday in 1471. It will also be seen that the beginning of this letter refers to the same subject as the beginning of Letter 681.

To John Paston, Esquier, be this delyverd in hast.

GRETE zow welle, and send zow Goddes blyssyng and myn, letyng zow wete that I have a letter from zour brother, wherby I undyrstand that he cannot, ner may, make no porveyans for the C. mark; the wyche causythe me

to be rythgh hevy, and for other thynges that he wrytht to me of that he is in dawnger. For remembering wat we have had befor thys and ho symppylly yt hath be spente and to lytyl profythe to any of us, and now arn in soche casse that non of us may welle helpe other with owte that we schuld do that wer to gret a dysworschip for us to do, owther to selle wood or lond or soche stuffe that were nessessary for us to have in owr howsys; so mot I answer a for God, I wot not how to do for the seyde money, and for other thyngges that I have to do of scharge, and my worshup saved. Yt is a deth to me to thynk up on yt. Me thynkyth be zour brothers wrythtyng, that he thynkyth that I am informed be sume that be a bowthe me to do and to sey as I have be for thys, but be my trowthe he demyth a mysse; yt nedyth me not to be informed of no soche thengges. I construe in my owyn mend, and conseyve i now and to myche, and whan I have brokyn my conseyte to sume that in happe he deniythe yt too, they have put me in cownforth more than I kowde have be any imajynasyon in my owyn conseythe. He wrythetyth to me also, that he hath spend thys terme xl*li.* Yt is a gret thyng; me thynkyth be good dyscresyon ther mythe myche ther of aben sparyd. Zour fadyr, God blysse hys sowle, hathe had as gret maters to do as I trowe he hathe had thys terme, and hath not spend halfe the mony up on them in so lytyl tyme, and hath do ryth well. At the reverens of God, avyse hym zet to be war of hys expences and gydyng that yt be no schame to us alle. Yt is a schame and a thyng that is myche spokyn of in thys contre that zour faders graveston is not mad. For Goddes love, late yt be remembyrd and porveyde for in hast. Ther hathe be mych mor spend in waste than schuld have mad that, me thynkyth be zour brother that he is wery to wrythe to me and there fore I wyl not a kumbyr hym with wrythtyng to hym. Ze may telle hym as I wryth to zow. Item, I woold ze schuld remembyr zour brother of

Pekerngges mater, if he cum not hom hastely, that ze and Townesend and Lumnor may examyn and sette yt thorow. The pore man is almost on don ther by, and hys brother suethe hym and trobylyth hym sor zet; and also for the plesur of my koseyn Clere and the Lady Bolen, I woold yt were sette thorow.

As for my rowndlet of wyne, I schuld send zow mony there fore, but I dar not put yt in joperte, ther be so many theves stereng. John Lovedayes man was robbyd in to hys schyrte as he cam home ward. I trow, and ze assaye Towneshend or Playter, or sum other good kuntery man of owrys to lend yt zow for me tyl they cum hom, they wyl do so myche for me and I schal contente them a geyn. Item, Jamys Gressham hath ben passyng sekke and ys zet. Judy tellythe me that zour brother is avysed for to sue hym. For Goddes sake, late non onkyndnesse be schewed to hym, for that woold sone make an hend of hym. Remembyr ho keynd and true hartyd he hath ben to us to hys powre; and he had nevere take that offyce upon hym that he is in dawnger for, ne had be for owr sakkes. He hathe sold a gret parte of hys lond there for, as I suppose ze have knowlache of. Late yt be remembyrd, and ellys owr enmyes wyl rejoysyt, and ther wyl no wurshup be ther in at long way.

I schuld wryth mor but I have no leyser at thys tyme. I trow ze wyl sone kum hom, and there fore I wryth the lesse. God kepe zow and send zow good speede, &c. Wretyn the Fryday, Sen Andrue Ev.

Be zour modyr.

The following note is written on the back of the Letter in Sir John Fenn's hand:—"This letter was fastened by threads brought through with a needle and made fast by the seal. The threads being cut on the directed side the letter is opened without breaking the seal."

686.

A.D. 1471.

John Paston to Sir John Paston.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

This seems to be only a portion of a letter, beginning in the middle of a sentence. Probably it was a second leaf added to a more lengthy epistle. It is written on one side of a slip of paper and is in the hand of John Paston the younger. It is endorsed "John Paston" in that of his brother Sir John, to whom it was doubtless addressed. The date must be towards the end of the year 1471, as it appears by the letter immediately following that Lord Rivers embarked for Portugal that year on Christmas Eve.

. . . . the very valew of Sporlewood passyth not C. mark of no manys mony that I can spek with, and to be payid by dayis as the byll that Jwde shall delyv[er] . . . rehers; and ther ayenst ye shold loose iij*li.* of the ferme of the maner yerly, whych standyth by undyr wood; and yet the fense must stand yow over on xij. mark by the lest wey; but, by God, and I wer as ye, I wold not sell it for C. mark more then it is woorthe. Syr John Styll recomandyth hym to your good mastyrsheppe, and seyth pleynly if ye wyll he wyll com up to yow and awayte on yow whersoever ye be, coort or othyr. By Seynt Mary, he is owyng more mony then I wend; for he is owyng for a twelmonthe and a quarter at thys Crystmas, savyng for hys boord, xij*d.* a wek for iij. quarters; and he seythe pleynly that ye and R. Calle both bad hym syng styll for Syr John Fastolt as he dyd before; but I have bodyn hym that he shall get hym a servyse now at thys Crystmas; and so he shall, withowt that ye send hym othyr wyse woord, or ellys that ye or I may get hym som benefyse or fre chapell, or som othyr good servyse whych I praye yow enqwer for.

Item, and ye werk wysly your mater myght com in with othyr maters of the lordes in ther apoyntmentes with the Kyng, but it wold be labord to a porpose this Crystmas whyll ye have leyser to spek with your

mastyr. Item, myn aqweyntans with the Lord Revers is none othyrwyse but as it hathe ben alweys; savyng and he go no to Portygall to be at a day upon the Serasyns, I porpose and have promysyd to be ther with hym; and that jorney don, as Wykys seythe, farwell he. He porposyth to go forward a bowt Lent, but Fortune with hyr smylyng contenans strange of all our porpose may mak a sodeyn change. I ensuer yow he thynkyth all the world gothe on ther syd ayen; and as for my comyng up at the begynnyng of thys next term, with owt ye send me othyrwyse woord that I myght do yow som good when I wer com, by my feyth I com not ther, for it shold put yow to a cost, and me to a labor and cost bothe; but [if] ye send for me I com streyght, thow I tery the lesse whyll ther, and so I shall withowt I may do yow som good. By my feythe I porpose to make up my byllys clere, and send yow the copyse as hastyly as I can. Yonge Wyseman othyrwye callyd Foole, told me that Sir W. Yelverton is abowt to make a bargayne with the Dwches of Suffolk or with my Lord of Norfolk, whyche he may get fyrst, for the maner of Gwton. I reseyve all yet, God hold it.

I praye yow recomand me to my brodyr Molyenewx, and all othyr good felaws. J. P.

687.

A.D. 1472, 8 Jan.

SIR JOHN PASTON TO MARGARET PASTON.

[From Fenn, ii. 86.]

To my most honorabl and tendre modre, Margrete Paston, be thys letter delivered.

MOST worschypfull and kynde moodre, I comande me to yow, and beseche yow off yowr dayly blyssyng and remembraunce. Please it yow to wete thatt I have my pardon,[1] as

[1] His pardon passed the Great Seal on the 21st December 1471. Pardon Roll 11 Edward IV., m. 25.

the berer heroff can informe yow, for comffort wheroffe I have been the marier thys Crystmesse, and have been parte theroff with Sir George Browen,[1] and with my Lady myn aunte, hys wyffe,[2] and be ffor Twelthe[3] I come to my Lorde Archebysshope,[4] wher I have hadde as greete cheer, and ben as welkom as I cowde devyse; and iff I hadde ben in sewerte that Castr weer hadde ageyn, I wolde have comen homewards thys daye.[5]

. . . . . .

And I beseche yow to remembr my brother to doo hys deveyr thatt I maye have agayn my stuffe, my bookes and vestments, and my beddyng, how so evyr he doo, thoghe I scholde gyffe xx^ti^ scutes by hys advyse to my Lady Brandon, or some other goode felawe.

As for any tydynges ther be noon heer, saffe that the Kyng hath kept a ryall Crystmesse; and now they seye that hastelye he woll northe, and some seye that he woll into Walys, and some seye that he woll into the West Contre. As ffor Qween Margrett, I understond that sche is remevyd from Wyndesor to Walyngfforthe, nyghe to Ewhelme, my Lady of Suffolk Place in Oxenforthe schyre.

And men seye that the Lorde Ryverse schyppyd on Crystmesse evyn in to Portyngale warde; I am not serteyn.

Also the schalle be a convocacion off the Clergye in all haste, whyche men deeme will avayle the Kynge a dyme and an halffe, some seye. I beseche God sende yow goode heele and greater joye in on year then ye have hadde thys vij.

Wretyn att the Moor the viij. daye off Janever, A° E. iiij. xj.

By yowr soone,

JOHN PASTON, K.

1 Sir George Browne, Knight, of Betchworth Castle, in Surrey.—F.
2 Elizabeth Paston, formerly married to Robert Poynings.
3 Twelfth day, 6th of January.—F.
4 George Neville, Archbishop of York.—F.
5 Here follow directions about Caister, and a hope that it might be had again by the latter end of the term, when he would come home, and put his lands and houses into order.—F.

688.

A.D. 1472, 23 Jan.

John Paston to Sir John Paston.

[From Fenn, iv. 420.]

It appears by a letter of the 17th February following (No. 690), that at the beginning of the year 1472 the Pastons were endeavouring to come to an understanding with the Duke of Norfolk by the intercession of the Duchess. For further evidence of date, see the next letter.

To my ryght worchepfull brodyr, Syr John Paston, Knyght, be thys delyveryd.

RYGHT worchepfull syr, I recomand me to yow in my best wyse, lykeyth yow to wet[1] that I have thys day delyveryd yowr mantyll, yowr ray gowne[2], and yowr crosbowys, wyth telers and wyndas, and yowr Normandy byll to Kerby to bryng wyth hym to London.

Item, in eny wyse, and [*if*] ye can axe the probate of my fadyrs wyll to be gevyn yow wyth the bargayn that ye make wyth my Lord of Canterbery, and I can thynk that ye may have it, and as soone as it is prevyd ye or I may have a lettyr of mynystracyon upon the same, and a qwetance of my Lord Cardinalle evyn foorthe wyth; and thys wer one of the best bargaynys that ye mad thys ij. yer I enswyr yow, and he may make yow aqwetance or get yow one of the Bysheop of Wynchestyr for Syr John Fastolfys goodes also, and in my reson thys wer lyght to be browght a bowght with the same bargayn. And ye purpose to bargayn with hym ye had need to hye yow, for it is tolde me that my Lord of Norffolk wyl entyr in to it hastyly, and if he so doo, it is the wers for yow, and it wyll cawse them to profyr the lesse sylvyr.

Item, I pray yow send me some secret tydyngs of the lyklyed of the world by the next messenger that

[1] A blank occurs here in Fenn's left-hand, or literal copy, which is not explained.

[2] This means a gown made of cloth that was never either coloured or dyed.—F. But according to Halliwell "ray" means striped cloth.

comyth between, that I may be eyther myryer or ellys mor sory then I am, and also that I may gwyd me ther aftyr.

Item, as for Sir R. Wyngfeld, I can get no x. *li.* of hym, but he seyth that I shall have the fayirest harneys that I can bye in London for sylvyr, but money can I non get. I can not yet make my pesse wyth my Lord of Norffolk nor my Lady by no meane, yet every man tellyth me that my Lady seyth passyngly well of me allweys notwithstandyng. I trowe that they wyll swe the apell thys term, yet ther is no man of us indytyd but if it wer doon a for the crowners er then we cam owt of the plase, ther is now but iij. men in it, and the brygges alwey drawyn. No mor, but God lant yow myn her.[1]

Wretyn the Twysday next aftyr Seynt Agnet the fyrst.[2] J. P.

Item, yestyrday W. Gornay entryd in to Saxthorp and ther was he kepyng of a coort, and had the tenaunts attou[r]nyd to him, but er the coort was all doon, I cam thedyr with a man with me and no more, and ther, befor hym and all hys feluwschep, Gayne, Bomsted, &c., I chargyd the tenaunts that they shold proced no ferther in ther coort upon peyn that myght folle of it, and they lettyd for a seasen. But they sye that I was not abyll to make my partye good, and so they procedyd ferther; and I sye that, and set me downe by the stward and blottyd hys book wyth my fyngyr as he wrot, so that all tenaunts afermyd that the coort was enterupte by me as in yowr ryght, and I reqwered them to record that ther was no pesybyll coort kept, and so they seyd they wold.

1 This sentence I wish to have explained.—F.

2 The festival of St. Agnes, the first (and the most noted of the two), was kept on the 21st of January; her second festival was on the 28th of the same month, which it is to be observed was not the octave of the former, but a distinct feast upon a different occasion, and it is sometimes written "Agnetis Nativitas;" but it was on account of a miracle wrought at her tomb that this second feast was instituted.—F.

689.

A.D. 1472, 5 Feb.

Margaret Paston to John Paston.

[From Fenn, iv. 424.]

As anticipated in the preceding letter we here find that steps are being taken by one of the two women whose husbands were killed at the siege of Caister, to prosecute the appeal against Sir John for her husband's death. The other woman, as will be seen by Letter 677, had married again during the year 1471, and was thus disqualified from pursuing the same course.

To John Paston, Esquyer, be thys delivered.

GRETE you wele, and send you Godds blyssyng and myn, letyng you wete that the woman that sewyth the appell ageyn your brother and his men is comyn to London to call ther up on. And whan that she shuld come to London ther was delivered her C. *s.* for to sewe with, so that be that I here in this countre she wull not leve it, but that she shall calle ther up on such tyme as shall be to your most rebuke, but if [*unless*] ye ley the better wetch. She hath evill councell, and that wull see you gretely uttered, and that ye may understand be the money that was take her whan she came up, and ye shuld fynd it, I knowe it wele, if ther myght have you at avauntage; ther for, for Godds sake make diligent serge be the advyce of your councell, that ther be no neeglicens in you in this mater ner other for diffaught of labour, and call upon your brother, and telle hym that I send hym Godds blyssyng and myn, and desire hym that he wull now a while, whill he hath the Lords at his entent, that he seke the meanes to make an ende of his maters, for his elmyses arn gretly coraged now of late; what is the cause I knowe not. Also, I pray you speke to Playter that ther may be fownd a meane that the shereffe or the gaderer of grene wax[1]

[1] Estreats delivered to the Sheriff out of the Exchequer, to be levied in his county under the Seal of that Court, made in green wax, were from thence called green-wax.—F

may be discharged of certeyn issues that renne up on Fastolf for Mariotts mater, for the balyfe was at hym this weke, and shuld have streyned hym, but that he promysed hym that he shuld with in this viij. days labore the meanes that he shuld be discharged or ell[es] he must content hym, &c. Also, I send you be the berer her of, closed in this letter, v. *s.* of gold, and pray you to bey me a suger loyfe, and dates, and almaunds, and send it me hame, and if ye bewar [*lay out*] any mor money, whan ye came hame I shall pait you ageyn. The Holy Gost kepe you bothyn, and deliver you of your elmyse [*enemies*]. Wretyn on Sent Agas Day, in hast.

Item, I pray you speke to Mayster Roger[1] for my sorepe, for I had never mor nede therof, and send it me as hastly as ye can.

Be M. P.

690.

A.D. 1472, 17 Feb.
Sir John Paston to John Paston.

[From Fenn, ii. 90.]

After the death of Prince Edward, the son of Henry VI., who is said to have been murdered just after the Battle of Tewkesbury in May 1471, Richard, Duke of Gloucester, married his widow Anne, who was the daughter of Warwick the Kingmaker. The reference to the proposed sale of Sporle wood goes further to fix the date.—*See* Letter 686, and Nos. 710 and 711 following.

A Johan Paston, Esquier, soit doné.

BROTHER, I comande me to yow, and praye yow to loke uppe my *Temple of Glasse*,[2] and send it me by the berer herof.

Item, as for tydyngs, I have spoken with Mestresse Anne Hault, at a praty leyser, and, blyssyd be God, we be as ffer fforthe as we weer toffoor, and so I hoope we schall contenew; and I promysed hyr, that at the next leyser that I kowd ffynde therto that

1 Master Roger was, I suppose, some leech famous for his syrups, &c.—F
2 A Gem of Lydgate's.

I wolde come ageyn and see hyr; whyche wyll take a leyser as [I] deeme now; syn thys observance is over doon, I purpose nott to tempte God noo moor soo.

Yisterday the Kynge, the Qween, my Lordes of Claraunce and Glowcester, wente to Scheen to pardon; men sey, nott alle in cheryte; what wyll falle, men can nott seye.

The Kynge entretyth my Lorde off Clarance ffor my Lorde of Glowcester; and, as itt is seyde, he answerythe, that he may weell have my Ladye hys suster in lawe, butt they schall parte no lyvelod, as he seythe; so what wyll falle can I nott seye.

Thys daye I purpose to see my Lady off Norffolk ageyn, in goode howr be it!

Ther is proferyd me marchaunts ffor Sporle woode. God sende me goode sale whan I be gynne; that poor woode is soor manashed and threttt.

Yitt woote I nott whether I come home befloor Esterne or nott; I schall sende yow worde. No moor, &c.

Wretyn the ffyrst Tewesdaye off Lenton.

JOHN PASTON, K.

691.

A.D. 1472, 10 April.—ABSTRACT.

[From MS. Index in Magd. Coll., Oxford.]

Norfolk and Suffolk Deeds, No. 38.—"Relaxatio Johannis Paston facta Willielmo Wainflet et aliis totius juris in manerio vocat' Pedham Hall in Beyton, &c., in omnibus terris, tenementis, redditibus, &c., in villis de Beyton, Akle, Birlingham, et Hykling, quæ quondam fuerunt Johannis Fastolf.—April 10, Edw. IV., 12."—There is a similar deed of the same date including the manor of Titchwell, numbered "Titchwell, 5," in the collection.

692.

A.D. 1472, 30 April.

SIR JOHN PASTON TO HIS BROTHER, JOHN PASTON.

[From Fenn, i. 288.]

The date of this letter is ascertained by the fact that Sir Thomas Walde-

grave died on the 28th April 1472.—*See* Inquisition post mortem, 12 Edw. IV., No. 4.

To Master John Paston, or to my mestresse, hys Modre, be this letter delyveryd in hast.

BROTHER, I comand me to yow[1] . . . . . By Juddy I sende yow a letter by Corby with in iiij. dayes byffor thys; and ther with ij. potts off oyle for saladys, whyche oyle was goode as myght be when I delyveryd itt, and schall be goode at the reseyvynge, iff it be nott mysse handelyd, nor mysse karryd.

Item, as ffor tydyngs, the Erle of Northomberlonde is hoome in to the Northe, and my Lord off Glowcester schall afftr as to morow, men seye. Also thys daye Robert of Racclyff weddyd the Lady Dymmok at my place in Fleetstreet, and my Ladye and yowrs, Dame Elizbeth Bowghcher,[2] is weddyd to the Lorde Howards soon and heyr.[3] Also Sir Thomas Walgrave is ded off the syknesse that reygnyth, on Tewesday, now [*no*] cheer ffor yowe. Also my Lorde Archebysshope[4] was browt to the Towr on Saterday at nyght, and on Mondaye, at mydnyght, he was conveyd to a schyppe, and so in to the see, and as yitt I can nott undrestande whedyr he is sent, ner whatt is fallyn off hym; men seye, that he hathe offendyd, but as John Forter seythe, some men sey naye; but all hys meny ar dysparblyd [*dispersed*], every man hys weye; and som that ar greete klerkys, and famous doctors of hys, goo now ageyn to Cambrygge to scoolle. As ffor any other tydyngs I heer noon. The Cowntesse off Oxenfford[5] is stylle in Seynt Martyns; I heer no word off

[1] Here (according to Fenn) follows an order for making out an account and receiving some rents, &c.

[2] Elizabeth, daughter and heiress of Sir Frederic Tilney, Knight, and widow of Sir Humphrey Bourchier, son of John, first Lord Berners. Her husband was slain at the battle of Barnet.

[3] Thomas Howard, afterwards created Duke of Norfolk, by Henry VIII., for his victory over the Scots at Flodden. He was son and heir of John, Lord Howard.

[4] George Nevill, Archbishop of York.

[5] Margaret, wife of John de Vere, Earl of Oxford, daughter of Richard Nevill, Earl of Salisbury, and sister of Warwick the Kingmaker.

hyr. The Qween hadde chylde, a dowghter, but late at Wyndesor; ther off I trow ye hadde worde. And as ffor me, I am in lyke case as I was. And as ffor my Lorde Chamberleyn,[1] he is nott yitt comen to town; when he comythe than schall I weete what to doo. Sir John of Parr is yowr firende and myn, and I gaffe hym a ffayr armyng sworde within this iij. dayes. I harde somwhat by hym off a bakke ffreende off yowr; ye schall knowe moor her afftr.

Wretyn the last daye of Apryll.

693.

A.D. 1472, 14 May.
John Paston to Sir John Paston.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

What is here said of the attempt of Gurney to collect the rents at Saxthorpe, seems to show that this letter is of the same year as No. 688. Also the mention of Maryot's annuity and the green wax, agrees very well with the previous allusion to these matters in No. 689.

To Mastyr Syr John Paston, Knyght, in hast.

SYR, I recomande me to yow, &c. W. Gorney and I ar apoyntyd that ther shall no mony be takyn at Saxthorp tyll thys terme be past, for he hathe promysyd me to spek with yow and your consell, and that ye shall tak a wey betwyx yow so that ye shall be bothe plesyd. He had warnyd a coort at Saxthorp and to have be kep upon Holy Rood Day last past, and ther he wold have gadyrd the half yere ferm, but it fortunyd me to be there ere the coort was half done, and I took syche a wey with hym that the qwest gave no verdyt, ner they procedyd no ferther in ther cort, nor gadyrd no mony ther, nor not shall do, tyll syche tym as ye spek to gedyr, and [*if*] ye be at London thys term; but and ye be not at London, I wold avyse yow to let Townysend tak a wey with hym,

[1] William, Lord Hastings.

for it lyeth not in my power to keep werre with hym; for and I had not delt ryght corteysly up on Holy Rood Day I had drownk to myn oystyrs, for yowng Heydon had reysyd as many men as he kowd mak in harneys to have holp Gornay; but when Heydon sye [*saw*] that we delt so corteysly as we ded he withdrew hys men and mad hem to go hom a yen, notwithstandyng they wer redy, and ned had be. And also my Lord of Norffolks men wyll be with hym ayenst me I wet well as yet, tyl bettyr pesse be.

Item, as for myn ownkyll William, I have spook with hym, and he seyth that he wyll make a byll in all hast of iche percelle be twyxt yow and send yow word in wryghtyng how that he wooll dyell with yow; but I can not se that he besyth hym abowght it, notwithstandyng I calle upon hym dayly for it. As for mony, I can none get, neyther at Snaylewell nor at Sporle tyll mydsomer, thow I wold dryve all the catell they have. I was bond to the shrevys for gren wax[1] and for a *fyeri facias* that is awardyd owt of yowr lond, wyche drawyth in alle bettyr than v. mark, and I am fayn to borow the mony to pay it by that Lord I beleve on, for I cowd not gadyr a nobyll of areragys syn I was with yow at London of alle the lyvelod ye have. As for John Maryot, he is payid of hys anuyte in to a nobyll or x*s*. at the most, but as for all hys dettors I can not pay hem tyll I can gadyr more mony, so God help me. I pray yow send a byll to John Pampyng that he may ryed with me ovyr all your lyvelood, and tak a clere reknyng what is owyng and what that I have receyvyd, that ye may have a cler reknyng of all that ye owe in thys contre, and what your tenauntes owe yow. Item, I pray yow send me word as hastyly as ye can, how the world goethe. No more, but God lant yow lansmann,[2] and rather then to stand in dowght, remembyr what peyn it is a man to loese lyberte. The Flet is a fayir preson, but

[1] *See* page 36, note 1.
[2] So in MS. What does this mean? Compare similar expression at *p.* 35.

ye had but smale lyberte ther in,[1] for ye must nedys aper when ye wer callyd. Item, I have fownd Jamys Greshamys oblygacyon. Item, he comyth to Londonward thys day.

Wretyn the xiiij. day of Maye. J. P.

694.

A.D. 1472, 25 May.
John Paston to Sir John Paston.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

This letter seems to have been written in 1472, when, as before observed, the Pastons were endeavouring to make peace with the Duke of Norfolk by means of the Duchess. The date is confirmed by the reference to James Gresham's obligation at the end. Compare last No. There is no address on the back.

RYGHT worchefull syr, I recomande me to yow, sertyfying yow that I was purposyd to have com to London to have made my pese with my Lady of Norffolk, but I undyrstand she is not in London; notwithstandyng that is no cause of myn abydyng at hom, but thys is the cause, so God help me,—I can get no mony, neythyr of your lyvelod ner of myn, to pay for my costes, nor for to ease yow with at my comyng. Notwithstandyng I am promysyd som at Snaylewell, and if so be that John can take eny ther, he shall bryng it yow with this bylle. I send yow here ij. of my reknynges that I have receyved and payd syn I delt with yowr lyvelod, and by thes ij. and by that reknyng that I sent yow to London ye may know what is receyved by me, and what I have payid; and howgh and when so evyr ye wyll let your tenauntes and fermours at alle plasys be examynd, ye shalle fynd it non othyr wyse. So God help me, as your lyvelod is payid, it cannot paye your dettes in thys contre; for it drawyth up on a x*li.* that ye owe yet in thys contre, besyd the xii*li.* to Dawbney; and with in thes vij. dayis I shall send yow a clere byll what ye owe, for

[1] I have found no other mention of Sir John Paston having been imprisoned in the Fleet.

ther are axyid many thynges that I knewe not of when I was with yow.

Also I enswyr yow by my trowthe I saw my modyr nevyr sorer mevyd with no mater in hyr lyve then she was when she red the byll that ye gave me warnyng in that Perker had atainyd an axyon ayenst yow and me, for she supposyth veryly that it is doon by myn oncyll William meanys, to mak yow to sell your lond. But thys she comandyd me for to send yow word, that and ye sell eny lond, but paye your dettes with syche good as my Lord Archebyshopp owyth yow, and eny law in Inglond can put fro yow eny of hyr lond, she sweryth by that feyth that she owyth to God she wyll put fro yow dobyll as myche lond as ye selle. And therfor I wold avyse yow, calle sharply upon my Lord, the Archebyshop, for ye ar not bond to undo your sylf for hym.

Item, I pray yow se that I tak no hurt by Parker. As for myn oncyll W., I can not mak hym to send you the byll of syche stuff as he hathe of yowrs. He seyth he woll, but he comyth no of with it.[1] He and I ar fowly fallyn owght thys same day for a mater betwyx Lovell and Johne Wallsam and hyr sustyr. Lovell hathe bowt Jone Walshamys part of hyr lyvelod, and maryd hyr to a knave, and myn oncyll W. hathe oft spok with my modyr and me for to delyver Jone Walshamys evydence to Lovell, whyche I have in kepyng; and be cause I wyll not delyver Lovell the evydence therfor we fyll owt, in so myche that he seyth he wyll stryppe me fro the maner of Sweynsthorpe. Wherfor I pray yow in eny wyse send me by John Mylsend a copye of the deed that I sent yow to London. Ther is in the same deed Gresham and Snaylewell, and Sporle and Sweynsthorpe, alle to gedyr I trow. And I prey yow let the date and the feoffeys namys, and alle be set in. And I trust to God to mak yt so sewyr that he shall do me lytyll harm. Gefrey Spyrlyng callyth oft up on me to undyrstand how ye wyll delle with hym for hys plase in Norwyche. I pray you

[1] So in MS.

send me woord by John what answer I may geve hym; he delyth alwey ryght frendly with yow.

Item, I send yow here wyth Jamys Greshamys oblygacyon.

Item, I pray yow send serteyn woorde how the world gothe.

Wretyn the xxv. day of May. J. P.

Endorsed—John Paston.

695.

A.D. 1472, 5 June.
Margaret Paston to Sir John Paston.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

It is evident that Henry Heydon's purchase of Saxthorpe, mentioned in this letter, must have been subsequent to his support of Gurney in the possession of that manor, as mentioned in Letter 693. No doubt the year is the same. The letter is endorsed by Sir John "Per matrem."

To Sir John Paston, Knythe, be thys delyverid.

IGRET zow welle, and send zow Godds blyssyng and myn, latyng zow wet that I spakke with frends of myn with yne thys fewe days that told me that I am leke to be trobyld for Sir John Fastolles goodes, the whyche were in zour fadyrs possessyon, and as for me I had never none of them. Where fore I pray zow send me a kopy of the dyssecharge whyche ze have of my Lord of Wynchester that ze told me that ze had, bothe for my dyscharge and zowyrs wat sum ever that be callyd upon of eyther of us here after. Item, yt ys told me that Harry Heydon hat bowthe [*bought*] of the seyd Lord bothe Saxthorpe and Tychewelle, and hathe takke possessyon there in. We bette the busschysse and have the losse and the disworschuppe and ether men have the byrds. My Lord hathe falsse kownselle and sympylle, that avyseythe hym thereto; and as yt ys told me, Guton ys leke

to goo the same wey in hast. And as for Heylysdon and Drayton, I trow yt is ther yt schalle be. Wat schalle falle of the remnaunt, God kowythe,—I trow as evelle or whersse. We have the losse among us. Yt owythe to be remembyrd, and they that be defawty to have konsyens there in. And so mot I thryve, yt was told me but latte that yt is seyd in kownselle of them that ben at Caster, that I am leke to have but lytylle good of Mauteby yf the Duke of Norfolke have possessyon stylle in Caster; and yf we lesse that, we lesse the fayereste flower of owr garlond. And ther for helpe that he may be owte of possessyon there of in haste be myn a vyse, wat so ever fortune here after. Item, yt is seyde here that my Lord Archebysschoppe is ded; and yf yt be so, calle up on hys sueretes for the mony that is owyng to us, in hast be myn avyse; and at reverens of God helpe that I mythe be dyschargyd of the C. mark that ze wet of, owder be that mene or sum other, for yt is to myche for me to bere, with other charges that I have besyd, that I am to hevy wan I thynk up on yt. As for your syster Anne, Master Godfrey and his wyffe and W. Grey of Martyn, arn up on a powntment with me and your brother John, so that ze wylle a gre there to and be her good brother; sche schalle have to joyntor hys modyrs lyvelod after the dyssese of her and her husbond, and I to pay x*li.* be zere to the fynddyng of her and her husbond tylle c*li.*, be payed. And yf hys grawntsyers lyvelod falle to hym here after, he hathe promysed to amend her joyntyr. Master Godfrey hathe promysyd hym for hys parte xl*s.* be zere, and than lakkythe but iiij. nobyls of xx. mark be zere, the wyche they hope ze wylle make upe for zour parte. Wylliam Grey told me he schuld speke with zow here in wan he kam to London thys terme. God kepe zow.

Wretyn in hast on Fryday next after Sen Pernelle.[1]

Be your modyr.

[1] St. Petronilla the Virgin or St. Pernell. Her day was the 31st May.

696.

A.D. 1472, 5 June.
John Paston to Sir John Paston.

[From Fenn, ii. 92.]

This letter, like the last, is dated by the reference to Gurney and Heydon. The date is confirmed by the allusion to the proposal to sell Sporle wood.

To my ryght worchepfull brodyr, Sir John Paston, Knyght.

RYGHT worchepfull sir, I recomand me to yow.[1]

. . . . . .

Item, Mastyr John Smythe tellyth me that Sir T. Lyneys goodys ar not abyll to paye a quarter of hys detts that be axyd hym; wherfor syche money as is be left it most be devydyd to every man a parte aftyr the quantyte, whyche dyvysyon is not yet mad, but when it is mad he hathe promyseyd me that your part shalbe worthe iij. the best, &c.

Item, as for J. of Barneys hors, whoso have leest need to hym he shall cost hym xx. marks, not a peny lesse.

Ye send me woord of the maryage of my Lady Jane; one maryage for an other on, Norse and Bedford were axed in the chyrche on Sonday last past. As for my syster Anne, my modyr wyll not remeve fro W. Yellverton for Bedyngfeld, for she hathe comend ferther in that mater, syn ye wer in this contre, as it aperyth in hyr lettyr that she sendyth yow by Thyrston.

Tydyngs her, my Lady of Norffolk is with chyld, she wenyth hyrsylf, and so do all the women abowght hyr, insomyche she waytys the qwyknyng with in thes vj. wekys at the ferthest. Also W. Gernay wenyth that Heydon is swyr of Saxthorp, and that Lady Boleyn of Gwton. John Osberne avysythe yow to take brethe for your wodsale at Sporle, for he hathe cast it, that it is woorthe as good as ix.^{xx}*li.* Bewar of Montayn, for he may not pay yow so moche mony with hys ease.

[1] Here follows an account of some money transactions, &c.—F.

I prey yow recomand me to Sir John Parre with all my servys, and tell hym by my trouthe I longyd never sorer to see my Lady than I do to se hys Mastershepe; and I prey God that he aryse never a mornyng fro my Lady hys wyff, with owght it be ageyn hyr wyll, tyll syche tyme as he bryng hyr to Our Lady of Walsyngham.

Also I prey yow to recomand me in my most humbyll wyse unto the good Lordshepe of the most corteys, gentylest, wysest, kyndest, most compenabyll, freest, largeest, most bowntesous knyght, my Lord the Erle of Arran,[1] whych hathe maryed the Kyngs sustyr of Scotland. Herto he is one the lyghtest, delyverst, best spokyn, fayrest archer; devowghtest, most perfyghte, and trewest to hys lady of all the knyghtys that ever I was aqweyntyd with; so wold God, my Lady lyekyd me as well as I do hys person and most knyghtly condycyons, with whom I prey yow to be aqweyntyd, as yow semyth best; he is lodgyd at the George in Lombard Street. He hath a book of my syster Annys of the Sege of Thebes; when he hathe doon with it, he promysyd to delyver it yow. I prey lete Portland bryng the book hom with hym. Portland is loggyd at the George in Lombard Street also.

And thys I promyse yow, ye schall not be so longe ayen with ought a byll fro me, as ye have ben, thow I shold wryght how ofte the wynd changyth, for I se be your wryghtyng ye can be wrothe and ye wyll

crosse it
·+·+·+

for lytyll.[2] Wretyn the v. day of June.
·+·+·+

J. Paston.

1 Thomas Boyd, Earl of Arran, in 1466, married Mary, daughter of James II. and sister of James the III., Kings of Scotland. He was appointed Regent, but becoming unpopular was banished, and died in exile before 1474.—F.

2 These two words are crossed as here represented, and over them is written, "crosse it."—F.

697.

A.D. 1472, 8 July.
John Paston to Sir John Paston.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

The references to the affairs of the deceased Sir Thomas Lynde, the Duchess of Norfolk's pregnancy, and other subjects mentioned in the letter immediately preceding, prove clearly that this letter belongs to the same year.

To my ryght worchepfull brodyr, Sir John Paston, Knyght.

RYGHT worchepfull sir, I recomand me to you, sertyfying yow that I have spokyn wyth Mastyr John Smyth[1] for Sir T. Lyndys, and he hathe shewyd me your byll whyche ye axe to be content of. Your byll a lone drawyth iiij. mark and ode monye, for ye have set in your byll for wax a lone xx*s.*, whyche to Mastyr John S. imagynacyon, and to all other ofycers of the coort, shold not drawe past xx*d.* at hys berying. The bylls that be put into the coorte of Syr Thomas Lynys dettes drawe xxx*li.* xviij*s.* vj*d.*, and all the money that can be mad of hys house and goodes in this contrey drawyth but v*li.* Mastyr J. Smyth wold ye shold send hym into the coort an inventory of syche goodys as Syr T. had at London when he dyeid, and that inventory onys had, ye shall have as comyth to your part and more also. Ye must send the serteynte whedyr the wax be xx*s.* or xx*d.*; and as for the Freers, Master John wyll notalowe theym a peny, for he seyth wher the dettes may not be payeid, set the beqwestes at nowght. He is agreid to pay the potycarye aftyr that he have the inventory fro yow. Rysyng I trowe hathe be with yow.

Item, as for John Maryot, I have sent to hym for the xl*s.* but I have non answer.

[1] Master John Smyth was, at this time, an officer in the Bishop's Court; he became afterwards Chancellor of the Diocese of Norwich, and died about 1491.

Item, I have spok with Barker, and he hathe no money, nor non can get tyll harvest, when he may dystreyn the cropp upon the grownd; he seyth there is not owyng past v. mark, and on Saturday next comyng he shall send me a vewe of hys acompte whyche I shall send you as sone as I have it. As for Fastolffes v. mark, J. Wyndham hathe be spokyn to by me half a doseyn tymys to send to hym for it, and he seyth he hathe doon so.

Item, Sir John Styll hathe told Jwde when ye shall have the chalys; ax Jwde of your crwets allso.

Item, the prowd, pevyshe, and evyll disposyd prest to us all, Sir James, seyth that ye comandyd hym to delyver the book of vij. Sagys to my brodyr Water, and he hathe it.

Item, I send you the serteynte her with of as myche as can be enqweryd for myn oncyll W. cleym in Caster; thase artyclys that fayle, the tenaunts of Caster shall enqwer theym, and send theym to me hastyly; they have promysyd, and they com, ye shall have theym sent yow by the next messenger that comyth to London.

Item, my modyr sendyth you woord that she hathe neyther Master Robard Popyes oblygacyon nor the Byshopys.[1]

Item, my modyr wold ye shold in all haste gete hyr aqwetance of the Byshop[2] of Wynchester for Sir John Fastolffes goodes; she preyid you to make it swyr by the avyse of your consayll, and she wyll pay for the costes.

Item, she preyith you to spek to the seyd Byshop for to get Master Clement Felmyngham the viij. mark be yer dwryng hys lyffe that Sir J. Fastolff be set hym; she preyid you to get hym an asygnement for it to som maner in Norffolk or in Lothynglond.

Item, she wold ye shold get yow an other house to ley in your stuff syche as cam fro Caster. She thynkyth on of the Freerys is a fayir house; she purposeyth to

[1] Walter Lyhert, Bishop of Norwich, from 1445 to 1472.
[2] William de Wainfleet, Bishop of Winchester from 1447 to 1486.

go in to the contre, and ther to sojorn onys ayen.[1] Many qwarellys ar pyekyd to get my brodyr E. and me ought of hyr howse; we go not to bed unchedyn lyghtly, all that we do is ille doon, and all that Sir Jamys and Pekok dothe is well doon; Sir Jamys and I be tweyn. We fyll owght be for my modyr, with "Thow prowd prest" and "Thow prowd sqwyer," my modyr takyng hys part, so I have almost beshet the bote, as for my modyrs house; yet somer shal be don or I get me ony mastyr. My modyr proposeith hastyly to take estate in all hyr londys, and upon that estate to make hyr wyll of the seyd londys, parte to geve to my yonger brethyrn for term of ther lyvys, and aftyr to remayn to yow, pert to my syster Annys[2] maryage, tyll on C*li.* be payid, part for to make hyr ile at Mawtby, parte for a prest to syng for hyr and my fadyr, and ther ancestrys. And in thys aungyr betwen Sir Jamys and me, she hathe promyseid me that my parte shall be nowght; what your shal be, I can not sey. God sped the plowghe; i feythe ye must purvey for my brodyr E. to go over with you, or he is on don; he wyll bryng xx. noblys in hys purse. My modyr wyll nowthyr geve nor lend non of you bothe a peny forward. Purvey a meane to have Caster ayen or ye goo ovyr; my Lord and Lady (whyche for serteyn is gret with chyld), be wery ther of, and all the housold also. If ye wyll eny othyr thyn to be don in thys contre, send me woord, and I shall do as well as I can with Godes grace, Who preserve yow.

Wretyn the viij. day of Julle. I pray yow recomand me to my Lord of Aran,[3] Sir John Par, Sir George Browne, Osbern Berney, R. Hyd, Jhoxson my cosyn, hys wyfe Kate, W. Wood, and all. I pray brenne thys by[ll] for losyng. Your, J. P.

[1] Fenn reads "onys a yer," which may have been intended; but I think the true reading is "ayen."

[2] She afterwards married William Yelverton, Esq.

[3] *See* page 47, Note 1.

698.

A.D. 1472 ?—Abstract.

[From MS. Phillipps 9735, No. 271.]

A paper endorsed "The copy of the request to the Bishop of Winchester by Sir John Paston, Knight."

Complains of my Lord not making him an acquittance of 4000 marks which he has often claimed, &c.

[Sir John Paston is desired in Letters 688 and 697 to procure from the Bishop of Winchester an acquittance for Sir John Fastolf's goods, and this paper may be presumed to be of the same year.

699.

A.D. 1472, 12 Aug.—Abstract.

[From MS. Index in Magd. Coll., Oxford.]

Norf. and Suff. Deeds, No. 63.—"Relaxatio Willielmi Paston Will. Wainflete et aliis totius juris in manerio de Caldecots in Freton, in Akethorp, in Lowestoft, Spitlings in Gorleston, tenementi vocat' Habland in Bradwell, et tenementi vocat' Broweston in eadem villa, et aliis terris infra hundred de Loddinglond Aug. 12, Edw. IV. 12."

700.

A.D. 1472, 20 Sept.

James Arblaster to the Bailiff of Malden.

[From Fenn, ii. 98.]

The date of this letter is ascertained by the reference made to it in that which immediately follows it.

To my ryght trusty ffrend John Carenton, Baylye of Maldon.

RYGHT trusty frend, I comand me to yow, preying yow to call to your mynd that, lyek as ye and I comonyd of, it were necessary for my Lady and you all, hyr servaunts and

tenaunts, to have thys Parlement as for one of the burgeys of the towne of Maldon, syche a man of worchep and of wytt as wer towardys my seyd Lady; and also syche on as is in favor of the Kyng and of the Lords of hys consayll nyghe abought hys persone. Sertyfying yow, that my seid Lady for hyr parte, and syche as be of hyr consayll be most agreeabyll, that bothe ye, and all syche as be hyr fermors and tenauntys, and wellwyllers, shold geve your voyse to a worchepfull knyght, and one of my Ladys consayll, Sir John Paston, whyche standys gretly in favore with my Lord Chamberleyn; and what my seyd Lord Chamberleyn may do with the Kyng and with all the Lordys of Inglond, I trowe it be not unknowyn to you most of eny on man alyve. Wherefor, by the meenys of the seyd Sir John Paston to my seyd Lord Chamberleyn, bothe my Lady and ye of the towne kowd not have a meeter man to be for yow in the Perlement, to have your needys sped at all seasons. Wherfor, I prey yow labor all syche as be my Ladys servauntts, tenaunts, and wellwyllers, to geve ther voyseys to the seyd Sir John Paston, and that ye fayle not to sped my Ladys intent in thys mater, as ye entend to do hyr as gret a plesur, as if ye gave hyr an C*li.* And God have yow in Hys keping.

Wretyn at Fysheley, the xx. day of Septembyr.

J. Arblaster.

I prey yow be redy with all the acomptanttys belongyng to my Lady, at the ferthest within viij. dayes next aftyr Perdon Sonday, for then I shall be with yow with Gods Grace, Who have yow in keepyng.

701.

A.D. 1472, 21 Sept.

John Paston to Sir John Paston.

[From Fenn, ii. 102.]

To my ryght worchepfull brodyr, Sir John Paston, Knyght.

RYGHT worchepfull sir, I recomand me to yow, letyng yow wet that your desyer as for the Knyghts of the Shyer was an impossoybyl to be browght abowght; ffor my Lord of Norffolk and my Lord of Suffolk wer agreid i mor then a fortnyght go to have Sir Robert Wyngfeld, and Sir Rychard Harcort, and that knew I not tyll it was Fryday last past. I had sent or I rod to Framlynham, to warne as many of your frends to be at Norwyche as thys Monday, to serve your entent as I koud; but when I cam to Framlynham, and knew the apoyntment that was taken for the ij. knyghts, I sent warnyng ayen to as many I myght to tery at hom; and yet ther cam to Norwyche thys day as many as ther costs dreave to ix*s.* i*d.* ob., payid and reknyd by Pekok and R. Capron, and yet they dyd but brak ther fest and depertyd. And I thankyd hem in your name, and told them that ye wold have noo voyse as thys day, for ye supposyd not to be in Inglond when the Perlement shold be, and so they cam not at the sherhous [*shire-house*]; for if they had, it was thought by syche as be your frends here, that your adversarys wold have reportyd that ye had mad labor to have ben one, and that ye koud not bryng your purpose abowght.

I sent to Yermowthe, and they have promysyd also to Doctor Aleyn and John Russe to be mor then iij. wekys goo.

Jamys Arblaster hathe wretyn a lettyr to the Bayle of Maldon, in Essex, to have yow a bergeys ther; howe Jwde shall sped, let hym tell yow, when ye spek to gedyr.

Syr, I have ben twyis at Framlyngham sythe your departyng, but now, the last time the consayll was ther, I sye [*saw*] yow lettyr whyche was bettyr then well endyghtyd. R. C.[1] was not at Framlyngham when the consayll was ther, but I took myn owne avyse, and delyvered it to the consayll with a propocysion ther with, as well as I kowd spek it, and my wordys wer

[1] Richard Calle.

well takyn, but your lett[yr] a thousand fold bettyr. When they had red it, they shewd it to my Lady.[1] Aftyr that my Lady had sen it, I spok with my Lady offryng to my Lord and her your servyse, and besyd that, ye to do my Lord a plesur[2] and hyr a bettyr, so as ye myght depert wyth ought eny some specyfyid. She wold not tell in that mater, but remyttyd me ayen to the consayll, for she seyd, and she speke in it, tyll my Lord and the consayll wer agreed, they wold ley the wyght [*blame*] of all the mater on hyr, whyche shold be reportyd to hyr shame; but thys she promyseid to be helpyng, so it wer fyrst mevyd by the consayll. Then I went to the consayll, and offyrd befor them your servyse to my Lord, and to do hym a plesure, for the haveing ayen of your place and londys in Caster, xl*li.* not spekyng of your stuff nor thyng ellys. So they answerd me your offyr was more then resonabyll; and if the mater wer thers, they seyd, they wyst what conscyence wold dryve hem to. They seyd they wold meve my Lord with it, and so they dyd, but then the tempest aros, and he gave hem syche an answer that non of hem all wold tell it me; but when I axid an answer of them, they seyd, and [*if*] som Lordys or gretter men mevyd my Lord with it, the mater wer your (kepe consaile), and with thys answer I depertyd. But Syr W. Brandon, Sothewell, Tymperley, Herry Wentworthe, W. Gornay, and all other of consayll, undyrstand that ye have wronge, insomyche that they mevyd me that ye shold take a recompence of other lond to the valew; but they wold not avowe the offyr, for I anserd hem that if they had ryght they wold have ofred no recompence. Dyscovyr not thys, but in my reason, and [*i.e.* if] my Lord Chamberleyn[3] wold send my Lady a letter with some privy tokyn betwyx theym, and allso to meve my Lord of Norffolk when he comyth to the Parlement, serteynly Caster is yours.

[1] Elizabeth, Duchess of Norfolk. [2] Make him a present.—F
[3] William, Lord Hastings.

If ye mysse to be burgeys of Maldon, and my Lord Chamberleyn wyll, ye may be in a nother plase; ther be a doseyn townys in Inglond that chesse no bergeys, whyche ought to do, and ye may be set in for one of those townys, and ye be frendyd. Also in no wyse forget not in all hast to get some goodly ryng, pryse of xx*s.*, or som praty flowyr of the same pryse, and not undyr, to geve to Jane Rodon, for she hathe ben the most specyall laborer in your mater, and hathe promysyd hyr good wyll foorthe, and she doeth all with hyr mastresse. And my Lord Chamberleyn wyll, he may cause my Lord of Norffolk to com up soner to the Parlement then he shold do, and then he may apoynt with hym for yow, or the ferm corn[1] be gadryd. I profyrd but xl*li.*, and if my Lord Chamberleyn profyr my Lady the remenaunt, I can thynk it shall be taken. My Lady must have somwhat to bye hyr kovercheff[2] besyd my Lord. A soper that I payd for, wher all the consayll was at Framlyngham, ij*s.* iij*d.*, and my costs at Framlyngham twyis lying ther by viij. dayis, with ix*s.* i*d.* ob., for costs of the contre at Norwyche drawyth abowght xx*s.*, I trowe more: by our Lady, i it be lesse, stand to your harmys, and *sic remanet* v*li.* xiij*s.* iii*d.*

I axe no more gods of you for all the servyse that I shall do yow whyll the world standyth, but a goss-hawke,[3] if eny of my Lord Chamberleyns men or yours goo to Kaleys, or if eny be to get in London; that is, a mewyd hawk, for she may make yow sporte when ye com into Inglond a doseyn yer hens, and to call upon yow owyrly, nyghtly, dayly, dyner, soper, for thys hawk. I pray noo more but my brother E., J. Pampyng, Thyrston, J. Myryel, W. Pytte, T. Plattyng

1 Corn paid in part of rent.—F 2 A head-dress, or handkerchief.—F.
3 From the anxiety here expressed for an hawk, we may judge of the attention which was paid to the diversion of hawking. Latham, in his book of Falconry, says, that a goshawk is the first and most esteemed kind of hawk; that a sore hawk is from the first taking of her from the eiry, till she hath mewed her feathers. The tassel, or tiercel, is the male of the goshawk, so called, because it is a tierce or third less than the female; it appears here, that a grosser, or dealer in foreign fruits, &c., sold hawks.—F

Jwde, lityll Jak, Mastyr Botoner, and W. Wood to boote, to whyche persons I prey yow to comand me; and if all thes lyst to spek to yow of thys mater when Sir George Browne, W. Knyvett, R. Hyd, or eny folk of worchepp and of my aqweyntanse be in your compeny, so that they may helpe forthe, for all is lytyll i nowe, and ye be not very well wyllyng, I shall so pervey for hem, and ever ye com to Norwyche, and they with yow, that they shall have as deynte vytayll and as gret plente therof for i*d.* as they shall have of the tresorer of Caleys for xv*d.*, and ye, peraventure, a pye of Wymondham to boote. Now thynk on me, good Lord, for if I have not an hawke, I shall wax fatt for default of labor, and ded for default of company by my trowthe. No more, but I pray God send you all your desyrs, and me my mwyd gosshawk in hast, or rather then fayle, a sowyr hawke. Ther is a grosser dwellyng ryght over ayenst the well with ij. boketts a lytyll fro Seynt Elens, hathe evyr hawkys to sell.

Wretyn at Norwyche the xxj. day of September, Anno E. iiij^{ti} xij^{o}. J. P.

Rather then faylle, a tarsell provyd wyll occupy the tyme tyll I com to Caleys.

702.

A.D. 1472, 29 Sept.
John Paston to Sir John Paston.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

The date of this letter is shown by a contemporaneous endorsement "Anno E. iiij^{ti} xij°," as well as by the repetition of the writer's request for a goshawk.

A Monsieur J. Paston, Chevaller.

RYGHT worchepfull sir, I comand me to yow, sertyfying yow that Pekok hath receyvyd of Sir John Stylle by a bylle all suche stuff as he had of your. And as for Kendallys mater,

he hathe doon as myche in it as can be doon: but as for Richard Calle, he hathe gevyn hym a pleyn answer that he wyll not seale to the lease that ye have mad to Kendalle, for he seyth he wottyth not whether it be your wylle or not, notwithstandyng he sye yore sealle up on it. I wold be sory to delyver hym a subpena and ye sent it me.

I send you herwith the endenture betwyx yow and Townesend. My modyr hathe herd of that mater by the reporte of old Wayte, whyche rennyth on it with opyn mowthe in hys werst wyse. My modyr wepyth and takyth on mervaylously, for she seythe she wotyth well it shall never be pledgyd ought; wherfor she seythe that she wyll purvey for hyr lond that ye shall none selle of it, for she thynkys ye wold and it cam to yowr hand. As for hyr wyll and all syche maters as wer in hand at your last being here, they thynk that it shall not lye in all oure porys to let it in on poynt.

Sir Jamys is evyr choppyng at me, when my mody: is present, with syche wordys as he thynkys wrathe me, and also cause my modyr to be dyspleased with me, evyn as who seyth he wold I wyst that he settyth not by the best of us; and when he hathe most unfyttyng woordys to me, I smylle a lytyll and tell hym it is good heryng of thes old talys. Sir Jamys is parson of Stokysby by J. Bernays gyft. I trowe he beryth hym the hyeer.

Item, ye must sende in haste to W. Barker a warrant to pay John Kook xxx*s*., and to the woman of Yermothe for otys xx., and Syr John Styll hys money, for they call dayly up on it.

Item, I prey yow send me some tydynges howgh the world gothe, and whether ye have sent eny of your folk to Caleys. Me thynkes it costyth yow to myche money for to kepe hem all in London at your charge.

Item, whethyr ye have eny thyng spokyn of my going to Caleys.

Item, as for a goshawk or a terssell, I wend to have

had on of yours in kepyng or thys tyme, but fere [*far*] fro iee fer fro hert; by my trowthe I dye for defawlt of labore. And it may be by eny meane possybyll, for Godes sake let on be sent me in all hast; for if it be not had by Halowmess, the seson shall passe a non, *Memento mei*, and in feythe ye shall not loose on it. Nor yet myche wyne on it by God, Who preserve yow.

Wretyn on Seynt Mychell Day, in Monte Tomba.[1]

J. P.

703.

A.D. 1472, 4 Nov.
Sir John Paston to John Paston.

[From Fenn, ii. 112.]

A Johan Paston, Esquyer, soit done.

WORSHYPFULL and weell belovyd brother, I recomand me to yow, letyng yow weet that I sente yow a letter and a rynge with a dyamond, in whyche letter ye myght well conceyve what I wold ye scholde do with the same rynge, with menye other tydyngs and thyngs whyche I prayed yowe to have doon for me, whyche letter Botoner[2] had the beryng off. It is so nowe that I undrestond that he is owther deed or ellys harde eskapyd, wheroff I am ryght hevye, and am not serteyn whethyr the seyd lettyr and rynge come to yowr handys or nott. I wolde nott that letter wer seyn with some folkys; wherffor I praye yow take good heede hoghe that letter comythe to yowr handys, hooll or brokyn, and in especiall I praye yow gete it, iff ye have it nott.

Also I praye yow feele my Lady off Norfolks dysposicion to me wards, and whethyr she toke any dysplesur at my langage, or mokkyd, or dysdeyned my

[1] On Tomb land in Norwich.

[2] William Botoner, otherwise Worcester. He certainly was alive some years later than this.

words whyche I hadd to hyr at Yarmothe, be twyen the place wher I ffyrst mett with hyr and hyr lodgyng, ffor my Lady Brandon and Syr William[1] also axhyd me what words I had had to hyr at that tyme. They seyd that my Lady seyde I gaff hyr ther off,[2] and that I sholde have seyde that my Lady was worthye to have a Lords soon in hyr belye, ffor she cowde cheryshe itt, and dele warlye with it; in trowthe owther the same or words moche lyke I had to hyr, whyche wordys I ment as I seyde. They seye to that I seyde she toke hyr ease. Also I scholde have seyde that my Ladye was off satur [*stature*] goode, and had sydes longe and large, so that I was in goode hope she sholde ber a fayr chylde; he was nott lacyd nor bracyd ine to hys peyn, but that she left hym rome to pleye hym in. And they seye that I seyde my Lady was large and grete, and that itt sholde have rome inow to goo owt att; and thus whyther my Lady mokk me, or theye, I woote nott. I mente weell by my trowthe to hyr, and to that she is with, as any he that owythe heer best wyll in Ingelond.

Iff ye can by any meed weete whethyr my Ladye take it to dysplesur or nowt, or whether she thynke I mokkyd hyr, or iff she wyght it but lewdnesse off my selffe, I pray yow sende me worde; ffor I weet nott whethyr I maye trust thys Lady Brandon or nott.

Item, as ffor tydyngs nowe, heer be but ffewe, saff that, as I undrestande, imbassators off Bretayne shall come to London to morawe, and men seye that the Lorde Ryverse[3] and Scayls, shall hastelye come home; and men seye that ther is many off the sowders that went to hym into Bretayne been dede off the fflyxe, and other ipedemye [*epidemics*], and that the remenant

[1] Sir William Brandon, Knight, was standard-bearer to the Earl of Richmond, and was slain in Bosworth Field by Richard III. He was father to Charles Brandon, Duke of Suffolk.—F.

[2] Meaning apparently, as Fenn suggests, "I paid her off, or treated her with unceremonious language."

[3] Anthony Woodville, Earl Rivers, &c., went to endeavour to obtain the possession of the Earls of Pembroke and Richmond, who were detained as prisoners by the Duke of Brittany.—F.

sholde come hom with the Lorde Skalys. And som seye that thees imbassators come ffor moor men. And thys daye rennyth a tale that the Duke of Bretayne[1] sholde be ded. I beleeff it not.

I sent yow worde off an hawke; I herde nott from yow syns; I do and shall doo that is possible in suche a neede.

Also I canne nott undrestand that my Lord off Norffolk shall come heer thys tyme; wherffor I am in a greet agonye howe is best ffor me to sue to hym ffor rehavyng off my place; that goode Lorde weet full lytell how moche harme he doothe me, and how lytell goode or worshyp it dothe hym. I praye yow sende me yowr advyce. No moor to yow at thys tyme, but God have yow in Hys kepyng.

Wretyn at London the iiij. daye off Novembre, anno E. iiij^ti xij^o. I feer me that idelnesse ledyth yowr reyne; I praye yow rather remembre Sir Hughe Levernoys tyll yowr hauke come. JOHN PASTON, K.

704.

A.D. 1472, 8 Nov.

SIR JOHN PASTON TO JOHN PASTON.

[From Fenn, ii. 118.]

A John Paston, Esquyer, soyt done.

BROTHER, I comend me to yow, letyng yow weet, &c.[2] . . . . . .

As for the delyverance off the rynge to Mestresse Jane Rothone, I dowt nott but it shall be doon in the best wyse, so that ye shall geet me a thank moor than the rynge and I ar worthe or deserve.

And wheer ye goo to my Laydy off Norffolk, and wyll be theer att the takyng off hyr chambre, I praye

[1] Francis II., the last Duke of Brittany, was born in 1435, and died in 1488.—F.

[2] The first part of this letter treats of some money transactions of no consequence, &c.—F

God spede yow, and our Ladye hyr, to hyr plesur, with as easye labor to overkome that she is abowt, as evyr had any lady or gentyllwoman, saff our Lady heer selffe, and soo I hope she shall to hyr greet joye, and all owres; and I prey God it maye be lyke hyr in worship, wytt, gentylnesse, and every thynge excepte the verry verry thynge.[1]

No moor to yow at [this] thyme, but I woll sleepe an howr the lenger to-morrow by cawse I wrote so longe and late to nyght.

Wretyn betwen the viij. and the jx. daye off Novembre anno xij° E. iiij^ti^. J. P., K.

705.

A.D. 1472, 19 Nov.

Margaret Paston to John Paston.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

From the time of year and other circumstances, it seems probable that the election here referred to was that of the year 1472. A circumstance which confirms this date will be found noticed in a foot-note. The original letter is mutilated in the middle by the decay of the paper, in more than one place.

To John Paston, Esquyer.

GRETE you wele and send you Goddes blyssyng and myn, letyng you wete that I have sent to Doctor Aleyn wyffe to have spoke with her as ye desired me, and she was so syke that she myght not comyn; but she sent her broder elaw to me, and I lete hym wete the cause why that I wuld have spoke with her as ye desired me. And he told me that he shuld have brought me wrytyng this day from her be vij. of the belle, how that she wull that ye shuld have labored or do for her; but he came no mor at me. Nevertherlesse she sent me an nother massenger, and lete me wete[2] that her husband had sent her the same nyght from London that she shuld

1 Fenn, in his modernised text, makes this "except the sex."

2 The words after "Nevertheless" originally stood "her seid brother-in-law told me that tyme that he was with me," but are crossed out.

come up as fast as she cowde to labor to the Lordes there in her propre person; wherfor she myght geve me non answer, ner send you word how that ye shuld do till [that] she had spokyn with her husband, or had other writyng from hym.

Therfore I thynk t[hat s]he hath other councell that avyseth her to labour to other than to you. I wuld not that [you be] to besy in no such maters [ty]ll the werd [*world*] were mor suer, and in any wyse that w[hile my] Lord the Chaunceller is in [occu]pation, labore to have an ende of your grete materes and . . . macion, and abide not up [on] trost of an nother seson, for so shall ye be disseyved a[s ye hav]e ben befor this tyme. I have understand sith that ye departed that ther . . . . mad to subplant you; therfore, for Goddes sake, in this onstabill werd [*world*] labore er[nestly your] maters that thei may have summe good conclusion, and that shall make y[our enemies] fere you, and elles thei shall . . kepe you low and in trobill. And if any mater . . . . be Act of Parlement and pro . . . . lete your bill be mad redy, and lese not your [ma]teres for other mennes; for if your elmyse [*enemies*] may profight now at this tyme, ye shall be [in] wers case than ever ye were befor. All the cou[ntry] wenyth that ye shuld now overcomyn all your trobill, which if ye do not ye shall fall o[ug]ht of conceyte. I write as well this to your brother as to you; therfore lete no diffaught be in you nowther.

Item, it was lete me to wete syth ye departed of such as were your frendes and were conversaunte with the toder parte that ther was mad labor and like to be concluded, that the eleccion of the knyghtes of the shire shuld be chaunged, and new certificat mad and John Jenney set there in; ther for do your devoir to understond the trought as sone as ye can, for the seid Jenney this day rideth up to London ward, and I suppo[se be]cause of the same. I pray you remembre your brother to send me the evydence and remem-

brance towchyng the maner of Gresham, which that I wrote to hym be Juddy, and send them be sum suer man.

Item, take hede to the labour of your unkyll, for he hath had right straunge langage of your brother of late to right wurchepfull persones; therfor werk wysely and bewar wham that ye lete know your councell.

Item, remembre Lomnors mater as ye may do therin, and send me werd in hast. Mayster Roos shall be at London the next weke; therfore ye shall not nede to make my Lord to write, but whan that he comyth, if my Lord can make hym to put it in indifferent and wurchepfull men, than that it pleasith my Lord to write to them that thei shuld take it upon them to set a rewle therin, with ought better advyse, me semyth it wer wele do. The Holy Gost be your gyde and send yow good spede and councell, and delivere you ought of all trobill and disseas to his pleser.

Wretyn the Thursday next be for Sent Kateryn,[1] in hast.

Recomaund me to my Mastres Kateryn, and send me werd how ye don, &c.

Be your Moder.

Do my Lord[2] on Sonday send for the shereffes debute [*deputy*] to wete how thei be disposid for certificate of the knyghtes, and I shall understand if thei be eschaunged; for on Sonday at nyght, or on Monday, it shall be put in, and [if i]t is put in, ther is no remedy. Geney seth he wull attempt the law therin.

706.

A.D. 1472, 22 Nov.

Sir John Paston to Margaret Paston.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

In this letter, as in the last, allusion is made to the visit paid by John Paston to the Duchess of Norfolk in November 1472.

1 St. Catherine's Day is the 25th of November.

2 The Duke of Norfolk. It will be seen by the preceding letter that John Paston was going to Framlingham in the beginning of November 1472.

To Mestresse Margret Paston, or to John Paston, Esquier, or to Roose dwyllyng affor ther gate, to delyver to them.

PLEASE it yow to weete that I have opteyned letterys from the Kynge to my Lorde off Norffolke, to my Lady of Norffolk, and to ther concell, whyche letter to ther concell is nott superscrybyd, for cawse we wyst nott serteyn whyche of the councell sholde be present when the massenger cowme. I therffor thynke that thoos namys most be somwhatt by yowr advyce; and for get nott Gornaye, nor yitt Brome, iff ye thynke so best, nor Sowthewelle. I trust to my cosyn Gornaye, and on to Brome and Barnard in cheffe; and as to Bernarde, brother, I praye yow to take hys advyce, for I hope he is my welwyller, as ye know, and iffe he do me perffyght ease in thys mater, I thynke verrely in tyme to come to gyff him xx. scutys, and yit a goode turne whan so ever it lythe in my power.

The Kynge hathe specially doon for me in thys case, and hathe pitte me, and so have the Lordys, in ryght greete comfort, that iff thys fayle, that I shalle have ondelayed justyce; and he hathe sente a man of worship and in greet favor with hym on thys massage, whyche hathe nott ofte ben seyne, whyche gentylman kan well do hys mastrys massage and brynge trywe reporte. I have gevyn hym *vli.* for hys costes: God sende hym and yow goode spede in thees werkes. I feer thatt he shall nott speke with my Lady, for that she hathe takyn hyr chambre. Iff she be my verry goode Ladye, as she hathe seyde hertoffor that she wolde be, I hope that she wolle speke with hym. Neverthelesse I praye yow by the meanes of Mestresse Jahne Rothen that will have my Ladye mevyd for me, and wher that herr to fore I wolde have departyd with C. marke to have hadde hyr goode helpe and to be restoryd to my place; whyche nott acceptyd, I tolde my seyde Lady that I feeryd that my power sholde natt be ther aftre to gyff so large a plesyr, for at that tyme

I was in hope that the Bysshop of Wynchester sholde have payd it, thoghe it hadde drawen a C*li.* Yet for as moche as men may nott lure none hawkes with empty handys, I wolde yitt agre to gyffe my Lady xx*li.* for an horse and a sadell, so that I be restoryd to my place, and that doone, to have a relesse of my Lorde, and my gounes and bokes to be restoryd, iff it maye bee. Neverthelesse thys mony is nott yit redy with me. I remytte thys to yowr dyscressyons.

Item, iff it be soo that itt be thowte behovefull, I thynke that thoghe nowther Slyfelde, nor ye, brother John, maye come in to my Ladyes chambre, that my moodre, iff she weer at Norwyche, she myght speke with hyr, for that she is a woman and off worshyppe. I thynke that my moodre sholde meve my Lady moche. I thynke that ther most be some body for me, havyng auctoryte to conclude for me, or ellys knowyng myn entente, they myght make delaye, and seye they wolle at the Kynges enstance comon with me; never the lesse I was nott ther present. Wherffor, rather than fayle, yff neede be, I wolle with owte any abode, iff I heer from yow, come home; and Slyfelde is agreyd to tary the a vij. nyghte for my sake, so that the mater take effecte. I praye yow make hym goode cheer, and iff it be so that he tarye, I most remembre hys costes; therffor iff I shall be sent for, and he tery at Norwyche ther whylys, it wer best to sette hys horse at the Maydes Hedde, and I shalle content for ther expences.

Item, ye maye largely sey on my behalve for suche servyse that I sholde do to my Lorde and Lady hereaffter, whyche by my trowthe I thynke to doo; nevertheless to sey that I woll be hys sworyn man, I was never yitt Lordys sworyn man, yit have I doone goode servyce, and nott leffte any at hys most neede ner for feer. But as Gode helpe me, I thynke my Lady shalle have my servyce above any lady erthely, wheche she scholde weell have knowyn, had I been in suche case as I hadde nott been alweye the werse welkome; for that on of my herandes alweye was undrestande that it was

for Caster, whyche was nott acceptable, and I evyr the werse welkome.

Item, brother, I ame concludyd with my Lorde for yow, that ye shalle be at Caleys if ye list, and have iij. men in wages undre yow, wheroff my Lorde seythe that William Lovedaye most be on, tyll tyme that he have purveyed other rome for hym. Iff ye be dysposyd to goo, as I tolde hym that ye weer, yett wer it nott best that ye lete it be knowe tyll thys mater be doone, and then ye maye acordyng to yowr promyse lete my Ladye have knowleche ther off. Never the lesse my Lorde shalle be here with in xx. dayes or ther abowt; iff ye come thys weye ye maye speke with hym; neverthelesse ye shall nott lose no tyme, iff ye weer at Caleys at thys owr, for my Lorde promysed me that he wolde wryght to Elkenhed the tresorer at Caleys for yow by the next massenger thatt went.

Item, ther hathe Perauntes wyffe wryte to me that Bernaye servyth hyr onkyndely. He owythe hyr xxxij*s.* and she is in noon hope that evyr he will come ther ageyn; sende me worde iff he wyll. He shall nott lyf so weell and trywly to geedre, I trowe, but iffe he goo thyddre.

I hadde comen home, butt that I ame nott yitt verrely purveyd for payment for my oncle William the xxvj. daye of thys monythe, and he dothe me harme. He delythe so oncurteysly with Towneshende, for he wille nott yitt paye hym the C. marke, payable att Halowmesse, whyche he hadde a monythe affore; wherffor I feer that Towneshende wille nott do for me ageyn. I shall doo as I kan.

Wretyn on Sondaye next Seynt Clement.

JOHN PASTON, K.

707.

A.D. 1472, 23 Nov.
MARGARET PASTON TO JOHN PASTON.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

It is evident that this letter was written in the same year as No. 705.

To John Paston, Esquyer, be this delivered.

GRETE you wele, letyng you wete that Doctor Aleyns wyffe hath be with me and desired me to write to you to desire you to be good mayster to her husband and to her in her materes, for she tellith me that her trost is full in you, and if she myght have walked she shuld have come to have spoke with you or than ye departed; therfor, I pray you do your devoir for her, for I conceyve that she feyneth not, notwithstandyng that I had her in suspecion as I have wretyn to you before, be cause that she came not, but I conceyve now the trought and that sikenesse caused thatt she absent her. Therfore I pray you help her, for, so God help me, I have right gret pete on her, and it is right grete almes to help her, and I trow she wull put her most trost and sewe specialle to you. Also I wuld ye shold desire your brother to be good mayster on to her, for I suppose be that tyme ye have herd her excuse in such materes as he shuld be displeased with her husband, ye shall hold you pleased. God kepe you and send you Hes blyssyng, with myn. Wretyn on Sent Clementes Day at nyght, in hast,

Be your Moder.

708.

A.D. 1472, 24 Nov.

John Paston to Sir John Paston.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

At the foot of this letter is written, in a different but contemporary hand, "A° E. iiij^{tt} xij°." The date is besides abundantly evident from other circumstances.

To Master Sir John Paston, Knyght.

YGHT worchepfull syr, I recomand me to yow, thankyng yow most hertly of your dylygence and cost whyche ye had in gettyng of the hawk, whyche ye sent me, for well I wot

your labore and trowbyll in that mater was as myche as thow she had ben the best of the world; but, so God help me, as ferforthe as the most conyng estragers [*falconers*] that ever I spak with can imagyn, she shall never serve but to ley eggys, for she is bothe a mwer de haye, and also she hathe ben so brooseid with cariage of fewle that she is as good as lame in boothe hyr leggys, as every man may se at iee. Wherfor all syche folk as have seen hyr avyse me to cast hyr in to some wood, wher as I wyll have hyr to eyer [*lay eggs*]; but I wyll do ther in as ye wyll, whedyr ye wyll I send hyr yow ayen, or cast hyr in Thorpe wood and a tarsell with hyr, for I weit wher on is. But now I dar no more put yow to the cost of an hawke, but, for Godes sake, and ther be eny tersell or good chep goshawk that myght be gotyn, that the berer herof may have hyr to bryng me, and I ensuer yow be my trowthe ye shall have Dollys and Browne bonde to paye yow at Kandyllmas the pryse of the hawke. Now, and ye have as many ladyse as ye wer wont to have, I reqwere yow for hyr sake that ye best love of theym all, onys trowbyll yowr syllf for me in thys mater, and be owght of my clamor.

Item, as for the ryng, it is delyverd, but I had as gret peyn to make hyr take it as ever I had in syche a mater; but I have promyseid yow to be hyr knyght, and she hathe promyseid me to be more at your comandment then at eny knyghtes in Inglond, my Lord reservyd; and that ye shall well undyrstand, if ye have owght to do, wherin she may be an helper; for ther was never knyght dyd so myche cost on hyr as ye have doon.

I mervyall that I her no woord of the lettyrs that my Lord Chamberleyn shold send to my Lord and my Lady for Caster. It is best that my Lord Chamberleyn wryght to my Lady by som prevy tokyn betwyx theym, and let a man of hys com with the lettrys. My Lord Chamberleyn may speed with my Lady what maters he wyll, savyng the gret mater; and if ye inbyll

me for a solysitor, I shal be *a vouster comandment a touz jours.*

Item, me thynkyth that ye do evyll that ye go not thorewgh with my Lady of Suffolk for Heylysdon and Drayton; for ther shold growe mony to you, whyche wold qwyte yow ayenst R. T. and all other, and set yow befor for ever.

I prey yow for your ease, and all others to you ward, plye thes maters. As for alle other thynges, I shall send yow an answer, when I com to Norwyche, whyche shall be on Thorsday, with Godes grace. I have teryd her at Framlyngham thys sevennyght, for [my] Lady took not hyr chambyr tyll yersterday. Adewe.

Wretyn on Seynt Kateryns Evyn. J. P.

[1] I sye the pye, and herd it spek; and, be God, it is not worthe a crowe; it is fer wers then ye wend; be God, it wer shame to kep it in a cage.

709.

A.D. 1472, 26 Nov.—Abstract.

[From MS. Index in Magd. Coll., Oxford.]

"Soutwerk cum membris," No. 17a.—"Literæ patentes concessæ a Rege ad petitionem Domini Fundatoris pro ponte fiendo in vico vocato le Bermoseystret. Dat. 26 Novembris anno regni Regis Ed. IV. 12o."

710.

A.D. 1472.—John Osbern to Sir John Paston.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

To the right worshepfull my master, Sir John Paston, Knght.

Ao xij. E. R. quarti.

Please it your masterschep to knowe that Johon Shawe and I have goten a carpenter fro Walsyngham to Sporle to valewe

[1] This P.S. is written on the back of the letter.

your wod the[1] the wheche carpenter hese costis there Sondaye at nyght next before the Assencion off owre Lord Jesu Cryst, Mondaye, Tewesdaye, Wednesdaye, Assencion Daye, Frydaye and Saterdaye, and for hese labor iij*s.* iiij*d.* And upon the syte of your seid wode he hath valewid the launde wythin the dykes xij. fote inward fro the cop of the dyke and wythowte at liiij*li.* vij*s.* x*d.* And wythin the wode xij. fote wythin alle the dykes vjxx*li.* vij*s.* viij*d.* the valewe of the dykes abowte the woode fro xij. fote fro wythin owtewardis arn prysid at x*li.* grete chepis the valew of the trees in the maner and in the closes azens the seid manor toward Swaffham xx. marc gret chepe; there off be ware and be not to hasty, &c., the cloos at the tow . . . toward Pykenham not valewid nor not spoken of, &c. The summa totall ixxx*li.* & xviij*li.* ij*s.* viij*d.*

And if ze shuld selle all this wode togedyr for redy sylver never lesse in the summa paste v. marc, if ze woll sell the wode . . . . the lawnde wythin the dykes and the standardis thoo I shall wryte aftyr in this bille for to stande in any wyse less . . . . . all the hole sum at the most paste x*li.* for who so ever shall by it he maye so leve and gete goode, &c.

The summa of your standardis for certeyn reconyd the Mondaye and the Tewsdaye whill I was at Sporle wyth in . . . . and xij. fote wythin the dykes in forme above rehersid xjxx. And iche standarde a zard [*yard*] above the grownde . . . . . abowte an . . lesser till we come xij. inche and viij. inche besyde all odyr smale that arn of lesse mesure . . . . . growe the wheche arn many and resonabely sufficient, &c., the nowmber off the standardis wythin your . . . . . cowntid and summe be estimacion of the mesures and formes above rehersid CCCCma xxxvjti.

As for your undyrwode I can not fynde the meane to valewid to your avayle, be cause it were necessary to knowe the purpose off your fellyng, where off beware, &c.

As for the fensyng of your dykes, and ze shuld felle your bordorys off your wode the Suthsyde, viz., toward Pykenham fro the Wonges to Walsyngham Weye is lxxx. rodde at leste, the price of the rodde iiij*d.*, dyggyng, plashyng, and heggyng. . . . . Summa, xxvj*s.* viij*d.*

The Est syde toward Neyghton and Sparham vijxx. rodde at the leste, Summa, xl*s.*

The Northende toward Dunham lxxx. rodde, Summa, xxvj*s.* viij*d.*

The West syde toward Sporle be the Loyes vjxx. rodde, . . . Summa, xl*s.*

Summa, vj*li.* xiij*s.* iiij*d.*

Where off sum is reparyd, sum maye be sperid, but at the lest it woll coste yow a vj. marc, &c.

[1] *Sic, qu.* "there"?

If it please yow to take myn symple avyse in your wode sale, selle non in gret, but make fagottes and astell and lete alle your grete and goode tymber and trees stande, and ze shall make resonably mony to your worchep, and to your best avayle as John Shawe your servaunt shall telle yow, if I maye do zow any service in this c . . . . ze shall ffynde me redy, so that ze sende sufficient warant be the grace off Jesu, Who haue y[ow in His] kepyng. Wrete in hast, at Walsyngham, the Sundaye next aftyr the feest off the Assencion off owr [Lord] Jesu Cryste.

Be your JOHN OSBERN.

I praye yow geff credens in alle these materes to Shawe, for he can telle yow more shortlyer then I shuld wryte, and I hold hym trewe to yow in hese menyng.

Endorsed—Per John Osbern, pro Sporl Wood.

711.

A.D. 1472, 27 Nov.

RICHARD CALLE TO MARGARET PASTON.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

It is evident that this letter must have been written some time after the preceding, but very probably in the same year.

To the ryght reverent and worshipffull my mastres, Margaret Paston, in haste.

Plesith it you to wete that I have receyved your letter, wherin I conceyve ye wolde undrestonde how I do with the sale of Sporle Wode. It is so that I have begonne to felle asshe at the townes ende for to sette the contre on werke, and be that I shall undrestonde how the remnaunt wol doo. I have sette suche a classe [*glass*] before here ien [*their eyes*] ther, that they are madde upon it, so that I truste be Ester to make of money, what with the barke and with the asshe, at the leest l. marke for to retayle the wode our selfe, and be Cristemas next after that, other l. marke, and so yerely l. marke at Cristemesse as longe as the wode lasteth, to the some that I tolde you, and I truste more; and to this I durste be bound. Nevertheles, I am a bowte to selle it all a grete and to brynge it to all moste to as goode proffe as thowe we retayled it oure silffe, for it is so that ther is a man of Carbroke, they calle hym Saunders, I may have of hym for all the wode and barke that is in Sporle xjxx. marke, to paye at suche dayes a fore reherseyd, we to bere the costes of the fense and of the tithe; but we are not throw yet, nor nought shal be tille I have worde from you a yene, weche I must have be Sonday come sevenyte at the ferdheste, for on the

Wednesdaye nexte after that we shal mete a yene at Sporle. Wherfore I beseche you sende me your avice how ye thynke herein, and I shal doo that in me is be Godes grace; if I can do better with hym I shall. It shal be harde werke, but if I haunse hym som what, for ther is moche money be twix us, and therfore spare not to sende my master, Sir John, worde to take suche dayes of payment as is a bove wreten, for it shalbe performed what wey som ever we take be Godes grace.

Item, mastres, as for your write [*wright*] ye may not have hym tille after Cristemas, for he had taken an howse to make while I was with you, it wolbe this iij. wekes yet or then he make an ende, &c.

Item, I mette with Robert at Heythe of Matelaske at Norwiche, when I come from you. I felle on hande with hym for Matelaske Kerre, I myght have had of hym for that vij. marke and xx*d*. Dele nogh as ye thynke.

Item, as for money of the fermour of Sporle, he telles me he is bounde to Tounesende to pay hym at this Candelmesse. And he seythe if he may be discharged a yenst hym your money shalbe redy at hys daye, be Godes grace, Who have you in His blissed kepyng.

Wreten at Sporle, the Friday next after Seint Edmund the Kynge. Your servaunt, R. CALLE.

712.

A.D. 1472, Nov. or Dec.

JOHN PASTON TO SIR JOHN PASTON.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

The date of this letter is shown by the reference to the situation of the Duchess of Norfolk. Compare Letter 708. There is an old, and nearly contemporary, endorsement, "Anno xv°, mens. Novemb.," but this is clearly erroneous.

To Sir John Paston, Knyght.

SYME recomandyth hym to your good mastyrshep, and preyeth yow that ye wyll not forget, though he be a boye, to let hym were the same lyvere that your men do; and if it pleased yow to lete hys gowne clothe be sent hym home, that it myght be mad ayenst your comeing in to thys contre, he wold be as prowd as eny man ye have. Sir, as hertly as I can, I thank yow for the hatt, whyche is comyng, as I undyrstand by your wrytyng, sent by John, the Abottys man of Seynt Benet.

My modyr sendys you Godes blyssyng and hyrs, and preyes yow to get a new lycence of my Lord of Norwyche that she may have the sacrement in hyr chapell. I gat a lycence of hym for a yere, and it is nyghe woryn ought. Ye may get it for the Byshoppys lyve, and ye wylle.

As for the lettyrs that Slyfeld shold get newe of the Kyng, whyche ye shold bryng to my Lord of Norffolk, it is myn avyse that ye shall come home your sylff as hasty ly as ye maye, so that ye may be at the crystenyng of the chyld that my Lady is with; it shall cause yow gret thank, and a gret fordell [*advantage*] in your mater. And as for the lettres, leve a man of yowr to awayte on Slyfeld to bryng theym after yow; of whyche lettres I avyse yow to have one dyrect fro the Kyng to yow, comandyng yow to be the messenger and brynger of the other lettres to my Lord, my Lady, and ther consayll, for your owne mater; and thys me thynkyth shall do well, for then shall the man shewe to my Lordes consayll the lettre dyrect to yow that ye have awtoryte to be your owne solycytour, and also it shall be thought that the Kyng tendryth yow and your mater, when he wryghtyth to your sylf for it.

My Lady wayteth hyr tyme with in viij. dayes at the ferthest.

713.

A.D. 1472, 7 Dec.—Abstract.

This abstract is taken from Mr. Macray's account of the MSS. in Magdalen College, Oxford, printed in the Fourth Report of the Historical MSS. Commission.

1472, 7 Dec.—"Vigill of Concepcion of oure Lady," 12 Edw. IV. Indenture of agreement (in English) between Bp. Waynflete and William Worceter, by which the latter undertakes to deliver to the Bishop all deeds, charters, rolls of courts, and accounts, and all other muniments which are in his hands relating to the manors and lands of the late Sir John Fastolf, excepting lands, &c. in Norfolk, called Fairchilds, and two tenements and two gardens called Walles, in Suthwerk, of which he himself is seised; and also, as executor of the will of Sir Thomas Howes,

to deliver up all money and goods of Fastolf, and obligations for property, &c., sold by the said Thomas, which he can recover, over the sum of £40 due to him, the said William Worceter, for his marriage, and also to assist the said Bishop and his College at Oxford in all matters relating to Fastolf's lands; in return for which the Bishop covenants to pay him £100, and also an allowance upon all sums of money recovered by him.

714.

A.D. 1472, 18 Dec.

John Paston, to Sir John Paston.

[From Fenn, ii. 42.]

Fenn informs us that this letter is dated on the back in a contemporaneous handwriting, "Anno xo.," which seems to mean 10 Edw. IV. This date however is certainly erroneous; for in the inquisitions taken on the death of the Duke of Norfolk, Anne, Lady Mowbray, his daughter and heir, was found to have been four years old on the 10th December 1476. She was born, therefore, on the 10th December 1472.

To my Mastyr, Sir John Paston, Knyght, be thys delyveryd.

RYGHT worchepfull Syr, I recomand me to yow, thankyng yow most hertly of your gret cost, whyche ye dyd on me at my last being with yow at London; whyche to my power I wyll recompence yow with the best servyse that lythe in me to do for your plesure, whyll my wytts be my owne.

Syr, as for the mater of Caster, it hathe be mevyd to my Ladys good grace by the Byshope of Wynchester, as well as he kowd imagyn to sey it, consederyng the lytyll leyser that he had with hyr; and he told me that he had ryght an agreabyll answer of hyr, but what hys answer was, he wold not tell me. Then I axyd hym what answer I should send yow, in as myche as ye mad me a solysyter to hys Lordship for that mater; then he bad me that undyr consayll I shold send you woord that hyr answer was more to your plesure than to the contrary, whych ye shall have more pleyn knowlage of thys next terme, att whyche tyme bothe my Lord and she shall be at London.

The Byshop cam to Framlyngham on Wednysday at nyght, and on Thursday by x. of the clok befor noon, my yong Lady was krystend, and namyd Anne. The Byshop crystend it and was godfader bothe, and with in ij. owyrs and lesse aftyr the crystenyng was do, my Lord of Wynchester departyd towards Waltham.[1]

. . . . . .

And I let you pleynly weet, I am not the man I was, ffor I was never so roughe in my mastyrs conseyt as I am now, and that he told me hymselff before Rychard Sothewell, Tymperley, Sir W. Brandon, and twenty more, so that they that lowryd, nowgh[2] laughe upon me; no moor, but god look.

Wretyn at Framlyngham, the Fryday next aftyr that I depertyd fro yow. Thys day my Lord is towardys Walsyngham, and comandyd me to overtake hym to morow at the ferthest. J. P.

715.

A.D. 1472.

John Paston to the Duke of Norfolk.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

This petition is shown by internal evidence to have been drawn up towards the end of the year 1472, as it sets forth that the Duke had been more than three years in possession of Caister, which was surrendered to him in September 1469. There can be no doubt therefore that it was presented or prepared for presentation at the time of John Paston's visit to Framlingham.

To the right hyghe and myghty Prince, and my right good and gracious Lord, my Lord the Dwke of Norffolk.

MEKLY besechyth your hyghness, your poore and trew contynuall servaunt and oratour, John Paston, the yonger, that it myght please your good grace to call on to your most

[1] Then follows the substance of a conversation between the Lady of Norfolk and Thomas Davers, wherein she promises to be a friend to Sir John Paston concerning Caister; but J. Davers swore J. Paston not to mention her goodwill to any person, except to Sir John.—F.

[2] In the modern version Fenn reads, "so that they that *loved not*, laugh upon me."

discret and notabyll remembrance that lateward, at the cost and charge of my brodyr, John Paston, Knyght, whyche most entendith to do that myght please your hyghness, the ryght nobyll Lord, the Bysshop of Wynchester entretyd so, and compouned with your Lordshepp, that it liekyd the same to be so good and gracious Lord to my seyd brodyr, that by forsse of serteyn dedys, relessis, and lettrys of attorney selyd with the sealys of your good grace, and of other serteyn personys infeoffyd to your use in the maner of Caster, late John Fastolffes, Knyght, in the conte of Norffolk, my seyd brodyr and I, with other enfeoffyd to my seyd brodyrs use in the seyd maner, wer peasably possessyd of and in the same tyll syche tyme as serteyn personys, servaunts on to your good grace, entred in to the seyd maner, and therof have takyn the issuses and profitys in the name of your seyd hyghnesse by the space of thre yer and more, to the gret hurt of my seyd brodyr and me your seyd servuantes and oratour: wherfor, as I have oft tymys befor thys, I beseche your good grace, at the reverence of God, and in the wey of charyte, that my seyd brodyr may by your hyghness be ayen restoryd in to the possessyon of the sey[d] maner, acordyng to the lawe and good conscyence; and wee shall prey to God for the preservacyon of your most nobyll estate.

716.

A.D. 1473, 18 Jan.

Margaret Paston to Sir James Gloys (?)

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

The allusion by the writer to her cousin Berney's sickness makes it probable that this letter was written in 1473, when the Monday after St. Hilary would be the 18th of January. John Berney of Reedham died on the 20th January in that year (Inquis. *post mortem*, 13 Edw. IV., No. 19). The letter has neither signature nor address, but was probably written by Margaret Paston to her priest, Sir James Gloys, who died in the course of this year.

Recomaund me to you, and thanke you hertyly of your letteris, and delygente labour that ye have had in thoes materis that ye have wretyn to me of, and in all other, to my profette and worschep, and in esspeciall atte this sesons towchyng the mater that I sent you the indenture of. Ye have lyghtyd myne hert therin by a pound, for I was in fere that it wold not have bene doo so hastyly with oute danger. And as for the letters that Thom Holler son schuld have brought me, I see nother hym ne the letters that he schuld have brought; wherefor, I pray you hertely, yeve it be no dysese to you, that ye will take the labour to bryng Walter theyr he schuld be, and to purvaye for hym that he may be sette in good and sad rewle. For I were loth to lese hym, for I trust to have more joye of hym than I have of them that bene owlder; though it be more coste to me to send you forth with hym, I hold me plesed, for I wote wele ye schall best purvaye for hym, and for suche thynges as is necessar to hym, than another schuld doo, after myne intent. And as for ane hors to lede hys gere, me thynke it were best porvaye one atte Camberage, lesse than [*unless*] ye canne gytte onye carreours from thens to Oxynforth more hastyly; and I mervell that the letters come not to me, and whether I may laye the defaute to the fauder or to the son therof. And I wold Water schuld be copilet with a better than Holler son is, there as he schalbe; howe be it I wold not that he schuld make never the lesse of hym, by cause he is his contre man and neghbour. And also I pray you wryte a letter in my name to Watere, after that ye have knowne myne entent by fore this to hym ward; so that he doo welle, lerne well, and be of good rewle and disposycion, ther shall nothyng faylle hym that I may helpe with, so that it be nessessare to hym; and bydde hym that he be not to hasty of takyng of orderes that schuld bynd hym, till that he be of xxiiij. yeere of agee or more, thoff he be consaled the contrare, for oftyn

rape [*haste*] rewith. I will love hym better to be a good secular man than to be a lewit prest.

And I am sore that my cosyn Bernay is seke, and I pray you yeff me white wine, or ony of my wateris, or ony other thyng that I have that is in your awarde, may doo hym ony comforth. I lette hym have it; for I wold be right sory yf ony thyng schuld come to hym botte good. And for Godsake advise hym to doo make hys will, yeve it be not doo, and to doo well to my cosyn, his wiff, and els it were pete; and I pray you to recomaunde me to hyr, and to my nawnte, and to all the gentill men and gentil women there. And as for John Daye, and he bedede I wold be sory, for I know not howe to come by my mony that he oweith me; and I porpose that Pacoke schall have les to doo for me another yeres than he haith had, if I may be better porvayed with your helpe, for he is for hym self, bott not for me.

And as for ony marchandes to my corn, I can gytte none here; therfor I pray you, doo ye als wele therein as ye canne; also I send you by the bereer hereof the bill of myne resaytes. And yef ye go forth with Walter, I pray you come to me als sone as ye may after ye be commyn home; and me lyketh myne abydyng and the contre here[1] right well, and I trust whan sommer comith and fayre wether, I schall lyke it better, for I am cherysed here botte to wel.

And I constrew your letter in other materis well i nough, whereof I thanke you; and if it nede not to send forth Walter hastyly, I wald ye myght come to me, thowe ye schuld com opon one day and goo agayne on the next day, than schuld I comon with you in all materis; and I hold best if ye have not the letteris that Holler son schuld have brough me, that ye send Sym over for them this nyght that I may have them to morowe, and yif ye may combe your self, I wold be the better playsed.

[1] I think this must have been written at Maltby, where Margaret Paston certainly lived during her later years, and where she was doubtless staying when she desired a license of the Bishop to have the Sacrament in her private chapel. *See* No. 712.

And I remember that water of mynte or water of millefole were good for my cosyn Bernay to drynke, for to make hym to browke,[1] and yeve thei send to Dame Elesebeth Callethorppe ther ye shall not fayill of the tone or of both, sche haith other wateris to make folkis to browke. God kepe you.

Wrytyn on the Monday next after Sent Hiller.

I have no longer leyser atte this tyme.

717.

A.D. 1473, 3 Feb.

Sir John Paston to John Paston.

[From Fenn, ii. 120.]

To John Paston, Esquyer, or to Mestresse Margret Paston, hys Modre be thys letter delyveryd.

WEELL belovyd Brother.[2] . . . . . As ffor tydyngs heer, ther bee but fewe, saff that the Duke of Borgoyen[3] and my Lady, hys wyffe farethe well. I was with them on thorysdaye last past at Gawnt.[4] Peter Metteney ffarethe weell, and Mestresse Gretkyn bothe and Rabekyn recomend hyr to yow; she hathe ben verry seke, but it hathe doon hyr goode, ffor she is ffayrer and slenderer than she was, and she cowde make me no cheer but alwey my sawse was "How ffaret Master John, yowr brother?" wher with I was wrothe, and spake a jalous worde or too, dysdeynyng that she sholde care so moche ffor yow, when that I was present.

Sende me worde to Hoxons in wrygtyng, what goode the Bysshop ded ffor me at Framynham, and howe my Lorde, my Ladye, and all the cort or [*are*] dysposyd to me wards.

I here also seye that my Ladye and yowrs, Dame

[1] *i.e.*, to enable him to retain food in his stomach.

[2] Here follows an account of letters sent to him from Calais—of farme barly in Fledge, and of olde stuffe at Norwich, &c.—F.

[3] Charles the Bold, and Margaret, sister to Edward IV

[4] Ghent, in the Netherlands.

Margret Veer[1] is ded, God have hyr sowle; iff I weer not sorye ffor herr, I trowe ye have been.

No moor to yow at thys tyme, but All myghty Good have yow in kepyng.

Wretyn at Caleys the iij. daye of Februarye Anno R. R. E. iiij. xij^o^ J. P., K.

718.

A.D. 1473, 10 Feb.—Note.

In Blomefield's History of Norfolk, vol. xi. p. 208, it is stated that "on February 10 in the 13th of Edward IV., an indenture was made between Sir William Yelverton, William Jenney, serjeant-at-law, and William Worcester, executors of Sir John [Fastolf] on one part, and Thomas Cager and Robert Kyrton on the other, whereby the said Robert was appointed surveyor of the lands and tenements in Southwark and other places in Surrey, late Sir John's, to perform his last will; and also receiver of rents; who was to have 6 marks *per ann.*, and to be allowed besides all reasonable costs that he shall do in the defence and keeping out John Paston, Esq., and of all others claiming by him."

719.

A.D. 1473, 8 March.—Abstract.

[From MS. Phillipps 9735, No. 257.]

"J. P." [John Paston] to Sir John Paston.

As I promised in the letter that Playter sent, Playter and I have been with my mother to get her to make chevesance for the £100, but she bade us send you word, you need look for no other comfort from her. Jwde can tell you Barker's answer. As for John Kook you promised him payment yourself and to Sir John Styll 5 marks in part payment. My mother has sold her barley for 14*d.* I never meet John Smyth but I speak of it to him. He keeps his courts here at Norwich all the week. As for Fastolf, I can only speak to Wymondham his father-in-law, which I do as often as I see him. Would be sorry the great matter which requires hasty answer "lest the kok be in perayle" should be delayed by his negligence. Thinks Edmund Fastolf "was a "reasonable man to Robert of Lyne. Wherefore, let my brother "Edmund sue for the same, for one wife may serve for us both till "better peace be. So God help me ye may allege a plain excuse "that these dyrk wars have so hindered me that her lyvelode and "mine both should be too little to live at our ease till I were further "before the hand than I could be this two year, and she found

[1] Daughter and heir of Sir William Stafford, and wife to Sir George Vere. Their son, John Vere, was afterwards Earl of Oxford.—F.

" after her honor and my poor appetite." Would rather forbear what he would have than bring them in pain. " Say better " for me, for ye can and ye will. This matter must be honestly " handled, for I wot well my young lady of Oxenforthe shall hear " of it. We have here no tidings, but a few Frenchmen be " whyrlyng on the coasts, so that there dare no fishers go out " but under safe conducts. I pray you, and ye have any more " oranges than ye occupy, that poor men may have part for a " great bellied lady." First Monday of Clean Lent, 13 Edw. IV.

Addressed—"A Mys^r John Paston, schevaller, soyt done." *Endorsed*—"Mens' Marcii Anno xiij^o."

720.

A.D. 1473, 26 March.
John Paston to Sir John Paston.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

This letter is endorsed with what appears to have been the date of its receipt—"xxviij^o die Marcii A° xiij° E. iiij^ti."

To my Master, Sir John Paston, Knyght, be thys delyverd in hast.

AS I was wryghtyng this bylle, Mastresse Jane Harsset comandyd me streyghtly that I shold recomand hyr to yow in hyr best wyse, and she sendyth yow word she wold be as fayne to here fro yow as an other poore body.

Syr, it is so that my cosyn John Blenerhasset[1] is enformyd that for verry serteyn he is chosyn to be on of the colectours of the taske in Norffolk, wher in verry trowthe he hathe not a foot of lond with in the shyer; wherfor I beseche yow that, as hastyly as ye may aftyr the syght of thys bylle, that it may please yow to take the labore to comon with Sir Rychard Harrecorte, and to let hym have knowlage that thys gentyllman hathe nowght with in the shyer, and that ye tweyne may fynd

[1] John Blennerhasset, Bleverhasset, and (for shortness) often called Harsset, of Frens, married first Jane, daughter of Thomas Higham, Esq., and secondly Jane, daughter of Sir Thomas Tindal of Hockwold, Knight. He died in 1510, aged 87.—F.

the meane to get hym owght of that thanklesse offyce, for I promyse yow it encomberthe hym evyll, and my mastresse hys wyffe, and alle us hys frendys here; and if so be that ye and Sir R. Harcorte may not fynd the meane betwyx yow, that then it may please yow to meve my Lord Chamberleyn with thys mater, and so Master Harsset prayithe yow, and Mastresse Jane, hys wyff also, for she lyekyth no thyng by the ofyce.

It is thowght her amonge us that Heydons be the causers that he was set in. I prey yow enqwer of Sir R. Harcort who was the cause, and that it may be wyst in the next byll that ye send me; for if they wer the causers, it lythe in my cosyn Harsettes power to qwytte theym.

We have no tydynges to send, but that our Frenshemen[1] whyche kepte our costs her ar home into France, for lake of vytayll, we saye.

Hogan[2] is put in the Gyld Halle in Norwyche, and shalbe browght up to London for reportyng of hys old talys. He varythe not. No more, but I prey God send yow the Holy Gost amonge yow in the Parlement Howse, and rather the Devyll, we sey, then ye shold grante eny more taskys.

Wretyn the day next aftyr our Lady Day, the Anuncyacyon, Anno xiij. E. iiij^ti.

Yong Heydon laborythe alle that he can to mary on of hys doughtyr to yonge John Barney[3] by the mean of W. Calthorpp.

J. P.

721.

A.D. 1473, 2 April.

Sir John Paston to John Paston.

[From Fenn, ii. 122.]

[1] The French vessels that infested the coast, as mentioned in the preceding letter.

[2] Hogan pretended to foretel commotions and rebellions, &c. —F.

[3] This marriage never took effect.—F.

A son trescher & bon ame Frere, John de Paston, Esquier.

WELL belovyd brother, I recomand me to yow, letyng yow wete that at the request of Mestresse Jane Hassett and yow, I have laboryd the knyghtys off the sheer off Norffolk, and the knyghtys off the shyre of Suffolk. I understond ther had ben made labor that suche a thing shulde have ben as ye wrotte to me off, but now it is saff.

Raff Blaundrehasset wer a name to styrte an hare. I warrant ther shall come no suche name in owr bokys, ner in owr house; it myght per case styrt xx^ti harys at onys; ware that j*d*. perse.[1] I redde ther in the bille off Norffolk, off one John Tendall, Esquier, but I suppose it be not ment by owr Tendall, and iff it be, he shall not rest theer, iff I maye helpe it.

As for tydyngs, the werst that I herde was that my moodre wyll not doo so moche ffor me as she put me in comffort off.

Other tydyngs, I herd sey ffor serteyn that the Lady Fitzwater is ded, and that Master Fytzwater shall have CCCC. mrke a yer more than he had. I am not sory therffor.

As ffor the worlde I woot nott what it menyth, men seye heer, as weell as Hogan, that we shall have adoo in hast; I know no lyklyhod but that suche a rumor ther is.

Men sey the Qwyen with the Prynce shall come owt off Walys, and kepe thys Esterne with the Kyng at Leycetr, and some seye nowther off them shall com ther.

Item, off beyond the see, it is seyd that the Frense Kyngs host hathe kyllyd the Erle of Armenak[2] and all hys myry mene; some seye undre appoyntment, and some seye they wer besegyd, and gotyn by pleyn assault.

Ferthermoor men seye that the Frenshe Kynge is

[1] "Ware that penny purse"—*qu.* that penurious fellow?
[2] John, Count of Armagnac, assassinated on the 6th March 1473.

with hys ost uppon the water off Some a lx. myle froo Caleys; I leve them wheer I ffond them.

I made yowr answer to the ffrends off Mestresse Jane Godnoston accordyng to yowr instrucions. As for me, I am nott serteyn whether I shall to Caleys, to Leysetr, or come home into Norffolk, but I shall hastely send yow worde, &c.

Wretyn the ij. daye of Aprill, Anno E. iiij. xiij°.

722.

A.D. 1473, 12 April.
Sir John Paston to John Paston.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

To John Paston, Esquier.

BEST belovyd brother, I recomend me on to yow, letyng yow weet that I receyvyd on Wednysday last past yow angery lettre towchyng the troble that Sandre Kok is in, wherein I have largely comonyd with John Russe, and advysed hym to take a curteys weye with Sandre, for yowre sake and myn. He seythe he wold not dysplease yow by hys wyll, and that he purposythe to entrete yow and wolde deserve it to yowe. He undrestod that ye had large langage to the jurye that passyd again Saundre. I lete hym weete that ye weer wrothe, and that he shall nowther please yowe ner me, but iff he dele curteyslye with Saundre. I tolde hym as for the condempnacion uppon the accion off trespasse I thoght it nowther good ner worshypfull. Also I have wretyn to the person of Maultby to dele curteyslye with Saundre, iff he woll please yow or me.

Item, I sende yow herwythe the *supercedyas* for Saundre; so that iff ye fynde any meane for the condempnacions that than ye maye ease therwith the

suerte off pease. John Russe, as I suppose, is att home thys daye.

Item, as for tydynges heer, the Kynge rydeth fresselye thys daye to Northamton warde, there to be thys Esterne, and after Esterne he purposythe to be moche at Leysettre, and in Leysettre shyre. Every man seythe that we shall have a doo or Maye passe. Hogan the prophet is in the Tower; he wolde fayne speke with the Kyng, but the Kynge seythe he shall not avaunt that evyr he spake with hym.

Item, as for me, I most nedys to Caleyse warde to morowe. I shall be heer ageyn, if I maye, thys next terme. John Myryell, Thyrston, and W. Woode be goon from me, I shrewe them.

My modre dothe me moor harme than good; I wende she wolde have doon for me. Playter wroot to me that she wolde have leyde owt for me C*li.*, and receyvyd it ageyn in v. yer of the maner of Sporle, wherto I trustyd, whyche if she had performyd, I had nott ben in no juperte of the maner of Sporle. Nevertheless I shall do whatt I kan yitt. I preye yow calle uppon hyr for the same, remembre hyr of that promyse.

Item, I preye yow remembre hyr for my fadrys tombe at Bromholme. She dothe ryght nott [*naught*]; I am afferde of hyr that she shall nott doo weell. Bedyngfelde shall mary Sir John Skottes doghtre, as I suppose.

Item, Janore Lovedaye shall be weddyd to one Denyse, a ffuattyd (?) gentylman, with Sir G. Brown, nowther to weell ner to ylle.

Item, as for me, iff I had hadd vj. dayes leyser more than I hadd, and other also, I wolde have hopyd to have ben delyveryd of Mestresse Anne Hault. Hyr frendes, the Quyen and Attclif agreyd to comon and conclude with me, if I can fynde the meanes to dyscharge hyr concyence, whyche I trust to God to doo.

i. Item, I praye yow that ye take a leyser thys Estern halydayes to ryde to Sporle and sende for John Osberne, and I wolde ye sholde conclude a bergayn

with one Bocher, a woode byer, whyche Mendham that was my fermor ther can fecche hym to yow.

ii. And thys is myn entent. I wolde have the dykes to stonde stylle, acordyng as John Osberne and I comonyd, I trow xij. foothe with in the dyke.

iij. Item, that the standardes off suche mesur as he and I comonyd off maye also be reservyd. I suppose it was xxx. inche, abowt a yerde from the grownde.

iiij. Item, that it be surely fencyd at the cost off the woode byer in any wyse with a sure hedge, bothe hyghe and stronge.

v. Item, that ther be a weye taken with the fermores for the undrewood, so that I lesse not the ferme therffore yerly. Item, John Osbern can telle yow the meanys howe to entrete the fermores, for Herry Halman hath pleyed the false shrowe and fellyd my woode uppon a tenement off myn to the valew off xx. marke, as it is tolde me. I praye yow enquire that matre and sende me worde and dele with hym ther afftre.

vj. Item, iff the seyde wood clere above alle charges excep as is above, be made any better than CC. marke, I wolle seye that ye be a good huswyff. John Osberne seythe that he woll do me a frendes turne ther in and yitt gete hym self an hakeneye.

vij. Memorandum, that he have nott past iij. or iiij. yere off untraunce at the ferthest.

viij. Item, thatt I have payement off the holl as shortly as ye kan, halffe in hande, the remenaunt at halffe yeer, or ellys at ij. tymes with in one yere at the ferthest by mydsomer xij. monyth.

ix. And that ye make no ferther bergayn than Sporle woode and the lawnde, not delyng with noon other woode, nowther in the maner, nor ellys wher in none other tenement.

x. Item, that ye have sufficient sewerte for the monye, with penaltes iff nede be, some other men bonden with hym for the payement.

xj. Item, I wolle well be bownde to waraunt it to hym.

Item, I sende yow herwith a warant to yow and John Osberne joyntlye to bergayn. Comone and conclude that bergayn.

xij. Item, I suppose he woll, iff he conclude with yow, desyre to felle thys Maye, and I to have mony soon afftre. I reke not thowe he fellyd not tyll thys wynter; but iff he woll nedes begyn thys Maye, therffor I wryght yow thus hastely entrete hym, iff ye can, that he felle not tyll wynter.

xiij. Item, be ware how ye bergeyn, so that he felle nott butt in sesonable tyme and sesonable wood, for he maye felle no undrewood thys Maye, as I trowe

Item, as for yowr costes late th . . . . . newe fynde yow mete, and I woll allow it there, or ellys make me a bylle what it dra[weth to] . . . . . yow.

Item, I praye yow iff ye g . . . . . for me as ye can. I made my Lady heer but easy cheer, neverthelesse I gaff hyr . . . . . ys.

I promysed hyr to purveye hyr . . . . weselys, but I was deseyvyd; yit I wend to have had one.

My Lord of Norffolk hathe ben mevyd for Caster by my Lord Cardenall and the Bysshop of Wynchester, but it woll take non effecte . . . my Lady come. God gyff grace that she brynge auctoryte when she comythe thys next terme to common ther in and conclude, and so I prey yow advyse hyr. Itt may haply paye for hyr costes.

No mor to yow, but wretyn at London, the xij. daye of Apryll, Anno E. iiij^{ti} xiij^{o}.

I sende yow her with ij. letteris from John Osbern to me, wherby and by hys billes ye may undrestond the verry valewe off the wood.

I praye yow sende me wryghtyng ageyn by the Mondaye vij. nyght afftre Ester; iff Hoxon or the goode man off the Goot have it, they shall conveye it welle.

723.

A.D. 1473, 16 April.
Sir John Paston to John Paston.

[From Fenn, ii. 130.]

To John Paston, Esqer, in Norffolk.

YRSSHYPFULL and ryght hertyly belowyd brother, I recomande me on to yow, letyng yow wete that on Wednysdaye last past I wrote yow a letter, wheroff John Carbalde had the beryng, promyttyng me that ye shold have it at Norwyche thys daye, or ellys to morowe in the mornyng, wherin I praye yowe to take a labor accordyng afftr the tenur off the same, and that I maye have an answer at London to Hoxon, iff any massenger come, as ene I maye doo ffor yow.

As ffor tydyngs, ther was a truse taken at Brussellys about the xxvj. daye off Marche last past, be twyn the Duke off Borgoyn and the Frense Kyngs imbassators and Master William At Clyff ffor the Kyng heer, whyche is a pese be londe and water tyll the ffyrst daye off Apryll nowe next comyng, betweyn Fraunce and Ingelond, and also the Dukys londes. God holde it ffor ever and grace be.

Item, the Erle of Oxenfford was on Saterdaye at Depe, and is purposyd into Skotlond with a xij. schyppys. I mystrust that werke.

Item, ther be in London many fflyeng talys, seying that ther shold be a werke, and yit they wot not howe.

Item, my Lorde Chamberleyn[1] sendyth now at thys tyme to Caleys the yonge Lorde Sowche[2] and Sir Thomas Hongreffords dowtre and heyr,[3] and some seye

[1] William, Lord Hastings.—F.

[2] John, Lord Zouch of Harringworth; he was attainted in the first year of Henry VII.—F.

[3] Mary, daughter and heir of Sir Thomas Hungerford; she afterwards married Edward, son and heir to William, Lord Hastings, who in her right became Lord Hungerford, her uncle's attainder being reversed.—F.

the yonge Lady Haryngton, thes be iij. grett jowelles, Caleys is a mery town, they shall dwell ther I wot no whylghe [*how long*].

No mor, but I have ben, and ame troblyd with myn over large and curteys delyng with my servants, and now with ther onkynd nesse; Plattyng, yowr men wolde thys daye byd me ffar well to to morow at Dover, notwithstandyng Thryston yowr other man is ffrom me, and John Myryell, and W. Woode whyche promysed yow and Dawbeney, God have hys sowle, at Castre, that iff ye wolde take hym in to be ageyn with me, that then he wold never goo ffro me, and ther uppon I have kepyd hym thys iij. yer to pleye Seynt Jorge and Robyn Hod and the Shryff off Notyngham, and now when I wolde have good horse he is goon into Bernysdale, and I withowt a keeper.

Wretyn at Canterburye, to Caleys warde on Tewesday and happe be, uppon Good Frydaye the xvj. daye off Apryll, Anno E. iiij^{ti} xiij^{o}.

Yowr, J. P., K.

Item, the most parte off the sowdyors that went over with Sir Robert Green have leeff, and be comyn hom, the hyghe weye ffull; my cariage was behynd me ij. hours longer than I lokyd afftr, but I wysse I wende that I myght have etyn my parte on Good Frydaye all my garees [*finery*] and pryde had ben goon, but all was saffe. I pray yow iff W. Mylsent go ffroo yow, that he myght come to me to Caleys, I will have hym.

724.

A.D. 1473, 18 May.

SIR JOHN PASTON TO JOHN PASTON.

[From Fenn, ii. 136.]

To John Paston, Esquyer, in Norwich.

RYGHT wershypfull brother, I recomand me to yow, &c.[1] . . . . . .

As for tydyngs, the Erle of Wylshyr[2] and the Lord Sudele[3] be ded, and it was seyd that Sir W. Stanle was deed, but nowe it is seyd naye, &c.

Item, as ffor your goyng to Seyn James,[4] I beleve it but atwyen ij., &c.

I herd seye that a man was thys daye examyned, and he confessed that he knewe greet tresor was sende to the Erle off Oxenfford, wheroff a m^le li. [£1000] sholde be conveyd by a Monke off Westminster, and some seye by a Monke off Chartrehows.

Item, that the same man schulde acuse C. gentylmen in Norffolk and Suffolk that have agreyd to assyst the seyd Erle at hys comynge thyder, whyche as itt is seyd, sholde be within viij. dayes afftr Seynt Donston, iff wynde and weddyr serffe hym—fflyeng tales. No mor at thys tyme, but God have yow in kepyng.

Wretyn at London on Seynt Donstones daye, xviij. daye of Maye, Anno, E. iiij^ti xiij^o.

JOHN PASTON, K.

725.

A.D. 1473, 3 June.

SIR JOHN PASTON TO JOHN PASTON.

[From Fenn, ii. 138.]

To John Paston, Esqer, be thys delyveryd.

[1] Then follow some orders concerning servants, debts, securities, &c.—F.

[2] John Stafford was created Earl of Wiltshire in 1470. He was uncle to Henry, Duke of Buckingham.

[3] . . . . . Butler, Lord Sudley.—F.

[4] Apparently John Paston had talked of making a pilgrimage to the shrine of St. James of Compostella in Spain.

RYGHT wyrshypfull brother, I comand me to yow, letyng yow weet that thys daye I was in very purpose to Caleys ward, all redy to have goon to the barge, saff I teryed ffor a yonge man that I thoght to have had with me thyddr, on that was with Rows, whyche is in the cowntre; and because I cowde not geet hym, and that I have no mor heer with me butt Pampyng, Edward, and Jak, therffor Pampyng remembryd me, that at Caleys he tolde me that he purposed to be with the Duchesse off Norffolk, my Lady and yowrs. And Edward is syke and semythe nott abydyng; he wolde see what shold falle off thys worlde; and so I am as he that seythe "Come hyddr John, my man." And as happe was yisterday, Juddy went affor to Caleysward; wherffor I am nowe ille purveyd, whyche ffor owte that I knowe yit is lyke to kepe me heer thys Wytsontyd.[1] Wherffor iff ye knowe any lykly men, and ffayr condycioned, and good archers, sende them to me, thowe it be iiij. and I wyll have them, and they shall have iiij. mrks by yer, and my levere [*livery*].

He maye com to me hyddr to the Gott [*Goat*], or yit to Caleys with a riall[2] iff he be wyse, whyche iff nede bee, I wolde that Berker toke hym to come uppe with, iff it be suche one as ye tryst.

Item, I suppose bothe Pytte and Kothye Plattyng shall goo ffrom me in hast; I wyll never cherysshe knaves soo as I have don, ffor ther sakys.

Item, I praye yow sende me a newe vestment off whyght damaske ffor a dekyne, whyche is among myn other geer at Norwiche, ffor he shall ther too as ye woot off: I wyll make an armyng doblett off it, thow I sholde an other tyme gyff a longe gown of velvett ffor another vestment, and send it in all hast to Hoxon to send me.

I hopyd to have been verry mery at Caleys thys Whytsontyde, and am weell apparayled and apoyntyd,

[1] Whitsunday fell on the 6th June in 1473.
[2] A royal, a gold coin of 10s. value.

saff that thes ffolks ffayle me soo, and I have mater ther to make off ryght excellent. Som man wolde have hastyd hym to Caleys thowe he had hadd no better erand, and som men thynke it wysdom and profyght to be theer now weell owt off the weye.

Item, as ffor the Bysshop[1] and I, we bee nerrer to a poynt than we weer, so that my part is nowe all the londes in Flegge Holly, the maner off Heylesdon, Tolthorpe, and tenements in Norwyche and Erlham, excepte Fayrechylds, but ffarweell Drayton; the Devyll do ytt them.

Item, large and fferr comynycacion hathe ben bytwyen Sir John Fogge, Ric Haulte, ffor ther suster and me, byffor Doctor Wyntborne and ellys wher, so that I am in better hope than I was, by Seynt Lawrens[2] that I shall have a delyveraunce.

Item, as ffor tydyngs heer, I trow ye have herde yowr parte, howe that the Erle off Oxenfford landyd by Seynt Osyes in Essexe, the xxviij. daye off Maye, saff he teryed nott longe, ffor iff he had, the Erle of Essexe[3] rod to hym wardys, and the Lords Denham and Durasse, and other mor, whyche by lyklyod sholde have dystrussyd hym; but yit hys comyng savyd Hogan hys hed, and hys profesye is the mor belevyd ffor he seyde that thys troble sholde begyn in Maye, and that the Kynge sholde northwards, and that the Scotts sholde make us werke and hym batayle.

Men loke afftr they wot not what, but men by harneys ffast; the Kyngs menyall men and the Duke off Claraunces, ar many in thys town; the Lord Ryverse[4] com to daye, men seye to purveye in lyke wyse.

Item, how that the Cowntesse off Warwyk[5] is now owt off Beweley Seyntwarye, and Sir James Tyrell conveyth hyr northwarde, men seye by the Kynges

[1] Waynflete, Bishop of Winchester. [2] 10th of August.
[3] Henry Bourchier, Earl of Essex, Lord Treasurer.
[4] Anthony Wideville, Earl Rivers, beheaded at Pontefract, 1483.
[5] Anne, widow of Richard Neville, the great Earl of Warwick, sister and heir to Henry Beauchamp, Duke of Warwick, and mother of Isabel, the wife of George, Duke of Clarence.

assent, wherto som men seye that the Duke off Clarance is not agreyd.

Item, men seye that the Erle off Oxenfford is abowt the Ilde off Tenett hoveryng, som seye wyth grett companye, and som seye, with ffewe.

No mor, but God kepe yow.

Wretyn at London the iij. daye off June, Anno E. iiij^ti xiij^o. JOHN PASTON, K.

726.

A.D. 1473, 13 June.—ABSTRACT.

[From MS. Index in Magd. Coll., Oxford.]

Norf. and Suff. Deeds, No. 67. "Relaxatio Willielmi Paston facta Will. Wainflet et aliis de toto jure suo in manerio vocat' Caldecots, Akethorp, Spitlings, Habland, Broweston, &c. Jun. 13, Edw. iv. 13."

727.

A.D. 1473, 5 July.
SIR JOHN PASTON TO EDMUND PASTON.

[From Fenn ii. 146.]

A Edmond Paston, Esquyer, a Caleys soyt donne.

BROTHER Edmond, I grete yow weell, letyng yow weete that abowt thys daye vij. nyght I sende yow a letter by Nycholas Bardeslee a sowdyer, whyche is wont woute[1] to be at border [*brother*] Perauntys,[2] and also an hoseclothe[3] off blak ffor yow. I wende that ye sholde have hadde itt within ij. dayes, but I am afferde that he deseyved me.

[1] So in Fenn.

[2] Fenn suggests a fanciful explanation of the expression "border Perauntys," presuming the latter word not to be a proper name; but see page 66

[3] Cloth for hosen.

Item, I lete yow weet that Plattyng is comen hyddr, and he seythe that ye gaffe hym leve to ffetche hys geer and Pittys, and that is hys erande hyddr and noon other, ner he thowt never to goo ffro me, ner he wyll nott goo ffro me as he seythe, wherffor, I praye yow sende me worde off hys condycions, and whyghe ye thynke that he sholde never do me worshypp.

He seythe also that he and Pytte weer at the takyng off the Esterlyngs, and that he was in the *Pakker*, and Pytte in the *Crystoffre*. I praye yow sende me worde howe bothe he and Pitte quytte them, by the report off some indyfferent trewe man that was ther, iff they quytte them weell, I wolde love them the better, wherffor the next daye afftr the syte of thys letter, I praye yow wryght ageyn, and sende it by the next passage.

Item, I sende a lytell praty boxe herwith, whyche I wolde that Juddy sholde delyver to the woman that he wetyth off, and praye hyr to take it to the man that she wetyth off; that is to seye, as moche as ye knowe all well i now, but ye maye nott make yow wyse in no wyse.

Item, I praye yow sende me worde as ye wer wont to do off heer wellffar, and whether I weer owt and other inne or nott; and whether she shall fforsake Caleys as sone as ye sende me worde off or nott.

By God I wolde be with yow as ffayne as yowr selff, and shall be in hast with Godds grace.

Item, as ffor my brother John, I hope within thys monyth to see hym in Caleys, ffor by lyklyhod to morowe or ellys the next daye he takyth shyppe at Yarmothe, and goothe to Seynt James[1] warde, and he hathe wretyn to me that he wyll come homwarde by Caleys.

Item, I suppose that James Songer shall come with me to Caleys, the rather ffor yowr sake.

Item, Mestresse Elysabett ffareth well, but as yit Songer knoweth nott so perffytly all that ye wolde weet, that he woll nott wryght to yow off thees ij. dayes

[1] *See* page 90. Note 4.

tyll he knowe moor, but iff she hadde ben bolde, and durst have abydyn styll at hyr gate, and spoken with me, so God helpe me, she had hadd thys same that I sende nowe wher ye woot off, whyche ye shall see woryn heer afftr, itt is a praty ryban with praty agletts[1] and goodlye.

Make yow not wyse to Juddy, nowther not that ye wolde weet any thynge, ffor I maye sey to yowe at hys comyng ovr, he browt goodly geer reasonablye.

Item, as ffor my byll [2] that is gylt, I wolde it weer taken head too; ther is one in the town, that can glaser weell i nowe, as I herde seye. Also, ther is on comythe every markett daye ffro Seynt Omerys to Caleys and he bryngethe dagers, and ffetchyth also, he may have it with hym, and brynge it ageyn the next markett daye ffor xij*d.* or xvj*d.* at the most, and ellys late it be weel oylyd and kepte tyll I come. No more.

Wretyn at London the v. daye of Julle, Anno E. iiij^ti^ xiij^o^.

728.

A.D. 1473, 28 Aug.

Martin Rondelle to Sir John Paston.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

Monseigneur Jehan Paston, chevalier d'Engleterre.

MON treschier et honnore seigneur, je me recomande a vous outant que je puis ne scay. Et vous plaise savoir que je ay oy novelles de vous par ung de vo marchans de Calais touchant unne armura de unna sella que je vous doy, et de una barbuta, laquelle est en diferansce entre vous et moy, de laquelle je vous ay aultre foix dist que je

[1] Pendant ornaments of metal, like tags or points, &c.—F.
[2] A warlike instrument of Offence.—F.

estoie contant de fere toute rexon [*raison*], et en quore le vous dige prexentement que je suis prest de fer tout chou qu'il apartient en tout rexon, set [*c'est*] asavoir de la barbute et de l'armura de sella. D'aultre chiox ne vous suis en riens tenut, forque en toute les chiox que me seroint posible de faire pour l'amour de vous a vostre honneur et a vostre profit, je suis tout jour prest a vostre comendement.

Item, en houltre, je ay entendut que vous voulles avoir unng harnax complet. Com je prins vostra mexure dernierement quant vous fustes en ceste ville de Bruges, saichies que je ay en quor vostre mexure de toutes lez piesces ; pour quoy, se il vous plaist que je la vous fasa, je la vous faray de bon ceur, et tout cella que il vous plaira avoir fait ; et au regard du pris, je faray tellement que vous seres content de moy pour tant quant il vous plaira lesiem savoir queles piesses que vous voles avoir, et la faisson et le jour que vous la voles avoir par quelcun aqui je puis in chauder en nom de vous, et qui me ballia argant de sus, je feray si bien que se Dieu plaist vous vous loeres de moy. Aultre chiox ne vous say que mander pour le prexent, senon que je prie a Dieu que il vous doint ce que vostre ceur desir.

Escript a Brgues, le xxviij. jour de Ahoust, l'an lxxiij.

Le tout vostre serviteur,
MARTIN RONDELLE,
Armurier de Monsire le
Bastart de Bourgogne.

Endorsed -Par Martyne Rowndell, armorer de Bruggys. Anno E. iiij^to xiij°.

729.

A.D. 1473, 16 Sept.

LORD HASTINGS TO SIR JOHN OF MIDDLETON AND SIR JOHN PASTON.

[From Fenn, ii. 152.]

This letter, Fenn tells us, is endorsed in a hand of the time, "E. (?)

Hastyngs, Anno xiij°," showing that it was written in the 13th year of Edward IV.

To my right hertily beloved frends and felaws, Sir John of Middelton, and Sir John Paston, Knights.

AFTER herty recommendacion, I thank you of the gode attendance that ye yeve unto the Kings counsail at Calais; and the gode and effectuelle devoires that ye putte you in to assiste my depute Sir John Scot, in alle suche things as mowe concerne the saufgarde of my charge there. Leting you wite, that if ther be any thing that I can and may do for you, I shal with right gode wil performe it to my power.

And I preye you to recommaunde me to my Lady Howard,[1] my Lady Bourgchier,[2] and all othre ladies and gentilwomen of the saide towne. And in likewise to the Mayre, Lieutenant, and felaship of the staple; my felaws the souldeours, and all othre suche as ye shal seme gode. And oure Lord sende you your desirs.

Writen at Notyngham, the xvj. day of Septembre.

Sir Joh Paston, I pray you to yeve credens to suche thing as my depute shall shew you fro me, and conforme you to the same.

Your felaw,

HASTYNGS.

730.

A.D. 1473, 1 Nov.—NOTE.

On the Close Roll 13 Edw. IV. m. 5, is an indenture tripartite bearing date 1 Nov., 13 Edw. IV., between Thomas Byllyng, Chief-Justice, and others, including William Paston on the one part; Jane Ingaldesthorp, late wife of Edmund Ingaldesthorp,

[1] Margaret, wife of Sir John Howard, Lord Howard, and afterwards Duke of Norfolk. She was daughter of Sir John Chedworth, Knight, and died in 1490, 5 H. VII.

[2] Lady Bourchier was probably the wife of a son of Sir John Bourchier, Lord Berners.

Knight, William Norys, Knt., and Isabel, Marquesse Montague, his wife, of the second part; and William Parker, citizen and tailor, London, of the third part.

731.

A.D. 1473, 6 Nov.
Sir John Paston to John Paston.

[From Fenn, ii. 126.]

This letter is misdated in Fenn as of the 15th April. St. Leonard's Day is the 6th November.

To John Paston, Esquier, at Norwych, be thys delyvered.

WYRSHYPFULL and well belovyd brother, I comand me to yow, letyng yow weet that the worlde semyth qweysye heer; ffor the most part that be abowt the Kyng have sende hyddr ffor ther harneys, and it [is] seyd ffor serteyn, that the Duke off Clarance makyth hym bygge in that he kan, schewyng as he wolde but dele with the Duke of Glowcester; but the Kyng ententyth, in eschyewying all inconvenyents, to be as bygge as they bothe, and to be a styffeler atweyn them; and som men thynke that undre thys ther sholde be som other thynge entendyd, and som treason conspyred; so what shall falle, can I nott seye.

Item, it is seyde that yisterdaye ij. passagers off Dovr wer takyn; I ffer that iff Juddy had noon hasty passage, so that iff he passyd nott on Sondaye or Mondaye, that he is taken, and som geer off myn, that I wolde not for xx*li.*

I hope and purpose to goo to Caleys warde on Sondaye or Mondaye or nyghe bye, ffor I am nott accompanyed to do any servyse heer; wherffor it wer better ffor me to be owt off syght.[1]

[1] Here follow some money transactions relative to a Doctor Pykenham, his mother, and others.

. . . . . .

Item, Sprynge, that wayten on my ffadre when he was in Jowel hous [*gaol house*], whom my ffadre at hys dyeng besett xl*s.* he cryethe evyr on me ffor it, and in weye off almess, and he wolde be easyd, thow it wer but xx*s.* or x*s.* ; wherffor he hathe wretyn to my modr, and most have an answer ageyn ; I wolde that my moodr sende hym, as thoghe she lende hym som whatt, and he woll be pleasyd, and ellys he can seye as shrewdely as any man in Ingelonde.

Item, the Kynge hathe sent ffor hys Great Seall ; some seye we shall have a newe Chauncelor, but som thynke that the Kynge dothe as he dyde at the last ffeldys, he wyll have the Seall with hym ; but thys daye Doctor Morton, Master off the Rollys, rydethe to the Kynge, and berythe the Sease [*Seals*] with hym.

Item, I had never mor nede off mony than now ; wherffor Fastolffes v. mrks and the mony off Master John Smythe wolde make me holl, &c.

Wretyn on Seynt Lenards Daye, Anno R. R. E. iiij^{ti} xiij^{o}.

Item, sende me my vestment acordyng to the letter I sent yow by Symond Dam, in all hast.

J. P., K.

732.

A.D. 1473, 22 Nov.
Sir John Paston to John Paston.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

To John Paston, Esquyer, be thys delyvered.

RYGHT wyrshypfull and hertyly belovyd brother, I comand me to yow, letyng you wet that I receyvyd a letter that come from yow, wretyn

circa viij. Mychaelys,[1] wherin ye leet me weet off the decesse off Syr James, and that my moodre is in purpose to be at Norwyche, and I am ryght glad that sche wyll now doo somwhat by yowr advyce; wherffor be war fro hense forthe that noo suche felawe crepe in be twyen hyr and yow, and iff ye lyst to take a lytell labore, ye may lyfi ryght well, and she pleasyd. It is as good that ye ryde with a cople off horse at hyr cost as Syr James or Richard Calle.

Ye sende me worde also that she in noo wyse wyll purveye thyr C*li.* for the redemyng off Sporle. Late it goo. As towchyng that mater, John Osbern tolde me that he comonyd with yow at Sporle of that mater; ferr he devysed that Kokett, or suche an other man, sholde, to have it the better cheppe, leye owt the valewe off vj. yere for to have it vij. yere, wherto I wolde agre; and for Goddys sake, if thatt maye be browt abowt, late it be doon. As ye woot of, it is laten for xxij*li.* be yere, yit the fermor graunt but xxj.; but to Kokett it wolde be worthe xxv*li.*, yea and better. Neverthelesse, if Kokett wyll delyver vj^{xx}*li.*, I wolde he had it for vij. yeer, with thys that my moodre be agreable to the same, by cawse of th'entresse that she hathe for my brother William, whyche shall nott be off age thys vij. yeer; neverthelesse, as ye know myn olde entent, I purpose to purvey for hym in an other plase better than theer; whyche graunte off my moodre I praye yow to be my solycytor in, whyche [and] it be browt abowt, Sporle shall be in as goode case as evyr he was.

John Osbern willyd me to make yow a sufficiaunt waraunt to selle and felle wood at Sporle, whyche I remembre ye have in as ample forme as can be; neverthelesse iff thys meane above wretyn off letyng to ferme maye be hadde, it shall, I hope, nat nede to felle ner selle moche. But I remytte that geer to yowr dyscrescion, but iff ye have suche comforte, I praye yow sende me worde. I maye seye to yow, John Osbern flateryd me, for he wolde have borowyd mony off me.

[1] i.e. *circa octabas Michaelis*—about the Octaves of Michaelmas, or 6th October.

Item, in retaylyng of woode theer, it weer harde to tryst hym; he is nedye. If Kokett, or whoo so evyr had that maner to ferme for vij. yere, and payd therffor but vj^{xx}*li.*, he sholde, to lete it ageyn, wynne xxxvj*li.*, whyche we[re] moche; wherffor, iff it myght bee, yt wer more resenable vj^{xx} vij*li.* to be reseyvyd, and yit is ther lost xxix*li.*, or ellys iff ye take lesse mony and fewer yerys, so it be aftre the rate, so ther be purveyd C*li.* at the lest; send worde.

Item, ye wroot that lyke a trewe man ye sende me xviij*s.* by Richarde Radle. Ye weer to trewe; but he semys to be a false shrewe, for he browt me noon yitt. Whethyr he be owt of town or nott, kan I nott seye.

Ye prayed me also to sende yow tydynges how I spedde in my materis, and in cheff of Mestresse Anne Hault. I have answer ageyn fro Roome that there is the welle of grace and salve sufficiaunt for suche a soore, and that I may be dyspencyd with; neverthelesse my proctore there axith a m^{l} docatys, as he demythe. But Master Lacy, another Rome renner heer, whyche knowyth my seyde proctor theer, as he seythe, as weell as Bernard knewe hys sheeld, seythe that he menyth but an C. docates or CC. at the most; wherffor afftre thys comythe moor. He wrote to me also, *quod Papa hoc facit hodiernis diebus multociens.*

Item, as towchyng Caster, I tryst to God that ye shall be in it to myn use or Crystmesse be past.

Item, yowr ost Brygham recomand hym to yow, and when he and I rekenyd, I gave hym ij. noblis for yowr borde, whyll ye weer theer in hys absence; but in feythe he wolde, for nowth that I kowde doo, take j*d.* Wherffor ye most thanke hym or charge me to thanke hym on yowr behalve in some nexte epystyll that ye wryght to me to Caleys. He leete me weet that he wolde do moor for yow than soo.

Item, my Lady Bowgcher was almost deed, but she ys amendyd. I trowe they come in to Norffolk.

Item, as for W. Berker. I heer no worde from hym. I praye yow comon with Berney ther in, he knoweth

myn conceyt; and also I praye yow hast Berney ageyn. I wold not that he played the fooll, ner wastyd hys tyme ner hys sylver.

Item, as for the brace of grownde[s] [*greyhounds*], or one verry goode, or in especiall the blak of Germynes, I can nott seye but ye be a trewe man, but William Mylsent isse a false shrewe, so mote I thee, and I trow hys master ys too.

Item, I most have myn instrumentes hydder, whyche are in the chyst in my chambre at Norwyche, whyche I praye yow and Berney to gedre joyntly, but natt severally, to trusse in a pedde,[1] and sende them me hyddre in hast, and a byll ther in how many peces. Thys most be had to avoyde idelnesse at Caleys.

Item, I preye yow take heed among thatt my stuffe take noon harme, ner that myn evydence, wher ye wott of, be owt of joperte.

Item, I praye yow doo for Berneye as ye kan, so that he maye be in sewerte for hys annywyte, and that it be nott costious fro hense forthe to hym any mor to come, or sende for it. I pray yow wynne yowr sporys in hys mater.

Item, I purposed to have sent heer with the testament off my fadre and the scytacions to my moodre to yow and Arblaster; but they be nott redy. Within ij. dayes aftre the comyng of thys, I suppose they shall be with yow, and than I shall wryght mor to yow.

As for other tydynges, I trust to God thatt the ij. Dukes of Clarans and Glowcester shall be sette att one by the adward off the Kyng.

Item, I hope by the means of the Duke of Glowcester that my Lord Archebyshop[2] shall come home.

Item, as towchyng my sustre Anne,[3] I undrestand she hathe bene passyng seek; but I wende that she had ben weddyd. As for Yelverton, he seyde but late

[1] A kind of basket.

[2] George Neville, Archbishop of York, though formerly pardoned, had been accused of holding correspondence with the Earl of Oxford, for which he was imprisoned at Guines.

[3] Anne Paston married William Yelverton, grandson of Sir William Yelverton, the Judge.

that he wold have hyr, iff she had hyr mony, and ellis nott; wherffor me thynkyth that they be nott verry sewre. But, amonge alle other thynges, I praye yow be ware that the olde love of Pampyng renewe natt. He is nowe fro me; I wott nat what he woll doo.

No more. Wretyn at London, the xxij. daye of Novembre Anno R. R. E. iiij^{ti} xiij^{o}.

JOHN PASTON, Kt.

733.

A.D. 1473, 25 Nov.
SIR JOHN PASTON TO JOHN PASTON.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

The year in which this letter was written is clearly shown, partly by the allusions made in it to several matters mentioned in previous letters, and more especially by what is said of the Earl of Oxford. That nobleman was besieged in St. Michael's Mount, Cornwall, by Sir Henry Bodrugan during October and November 1473.

To John Paston, Esquier.

RYGHT wyrshypfull and well belovyd brother, I recomaund me to yow, letyng yow weet that I sende yow her with j. sitacion, where in ben my moodre and yee, wheroff I praye yow that I maye have hasty answeer. The effecte theroff is no moor, but ye bothe most sende answer, and make yow a proctor heer, and that most come hyddre ondre a notaryes syngne, affermyng that ye make suche a man, Master John Halsnothe, or ellis, yf ye will do the cost, to sende some other hyddre; yowr proctor to take admynystracion or to reffuse, and what so he dothe, ye to holde it for ferme and stable. Than most my moodre and ye wryght a lettre, undre my moodre seall and yowr syngne manuell, to me and Master John Halsnothe in thys forme:—"We gret yow well, letyng yow weet that we have made yow, Master John Halsnothe, our proctor in the testament of John Paston,

husband and fadre to yow, wherin we wyll that on owr behalff ye refuse the admynestracion of the seyde testament. And thys wryghtyng is to yow warantt and dyscharge, and also the verry wyll of usse." Thys most we have for owr dyscharge.

Item, I pray yow take good hedde to my soster Anne, lesse the old love atwyen hyr and Pampyng renewe.

Item, I pray yow sende me worde howe my moodre is dysposyd to hyr wardes, and iffe so weer that a good mariage myght be had, what she wolde depart with.

Item, I praye yow that ye remembre hyr for the tombe off my fadr at Bromholme, and also the chapell at Mauteby, and sende me worde how she is dysposyd her in.

Item, iff I have Caster ageyn, whethyr she wolle dwelle ther or nott, and I wyll fynde hyr a prest towardes at my charge, and geve hyr the dovehowse and other comodytes ther; and if any horsekeper on myn lye ther, I wolle paye for hys borde also, as weell as for the prestes.

Item, iff my modre sholde have a new prest, I thynk that my brother Syr J. Goos weer a metly man to be ther. He wolde also doo, as ye wolde have hym nowe, ber the cuppe evyn, as What-calle-ye-hym seyde to Aslake.

Be war of Myneres fro hense forthe, and sende me worde how ye trist Doctor Pykenham. I wolde, if he wolde doo owght for my moodre, that he hastyd the soner to paye me the C*li.*, so that I myght pledge owt Sporle.

Item, as for other tydynges, the Erle of Oxenforthe is stille besegyd. Neverthelesse, onys he issued owt, and toke a jentylman, and hant [*dragged*] hym within; but now off late he was besye, and one espyed hym, and shott at hym and strake in the verry fase with an arowe. I sye thys daye the same man, and theere I leef hym.

Iff Arblaster come to yow, ye maye see hys letter sente to hym by me, wherin I have wretyn that he

scholde take yowr advyce; but I praye you, above all thynges, that me make hast so that I heer from yow ageyn by thys day vij. nyght.

At London, the xxv. daye of Novembre.

JOHN PASTON, K.

734.

Date uncertain.

THE TENANTS OF SPORLE TO SIR JOHN PASTON.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

The date of this letter is very uncertain, but as a good deal is said about this time of the manor and wood of Sporle, we insert it here for convenience.

To oure specyall good lord and mayster, Syr John Paston, Knyght, be this delyvered in hast.

RIGHT worchepfull and oure specyall good mayster and loord, after our dewe recomendacion with owre servyce. Please it yow to knowe that we arn grevously troubled, and not lyke to kepe oure tenourys, the whiche we holde of you, but yf ye helpe us; for we wer bete at the boordourys syde, and afterwarde our servauntes wer bete at the plowe in Spoorle felde, and somme of them be lyke to dey. And we redyn to Maister Shereve and to Mayster Southwell for remedye, and thei advysed us to ryde to Mayster Wyngfeld; and thenne we understode that Mayster Wyngfeld was reden to London, &c. And so we stonden withoute remedye, and in grete doute of our lyves, and losse of our goodys. Wherfor we beseche you to socoure us accordyng to your right and owres. And ellys we kan nott abyde it, &c. Cryst kepe your good lordshep.

Be your poore tenauntes
of Spoorle.

735.

A.D. 1474, 9 Feb.—Note.

It appears by the Early Chancery Proceedings printed by the Record Commission (Vol. i. p. xc.), that a decree was given in Chancery in Hilary term, 13 Edw. IV. compelling William Paston and other trustees to fulfil a covenant between Richard, Duke of Gloucester and Elizabeth, Countess of Oxford. On the Close Roll, 13 Edw. IV. memb. 1, is a release by William, Bishop of Ely, Sir Thomas Montgomery, John Wentworth, clk., William Paston, Esq., Roger Townesend and Jas. Arblaster to Richard, Duke of Gloucester, of all their right in Ocle Magna and Parva, &c., in Essex which they have by enfeoffment of Eliz., Countess of Oxford, and in other manors in Norfolk and Suffolk which they lately had of the gift of the same. This release is dated 9th Feb. 13 Edw. IV., and was acknowledged in Chancery on the 11th Feb. Below it are enrolled three other deeds by the Countess and her feoffees to the Duke, dated 9th June. 12 Edw. IV., and acknowledged in Chancery, 25th June 14 Edw. IV.

736.

A.D. 1474, 20 Feb.
Sir John Paston to Margaret Paston.

[From Fenn, ii. 154.]

Mestresse Margrett Paston, at Norwyche.

RYGHT honorable and most tendr good moodr, I recomand me to yowe, besechyng yow to have, as my tryst is that I have, yowr dayly blessyng; and thanke yow off yowr good moderhood, kyndenesse, cheer, charge, and costes, whyche I had, and putte yow to, att my last beyng with yow, whyche God gyffe me grace her afftr to deserve!

Please it yow to weet, that I thynge longe that I heer nott ffrom yow or ffrom Pekok yowr servaunt, ffor the knowlege howe he hathe doon in the sale off

my fferme barlye, ner whatt is made theroff; wherffor I beseche yowe, if it be not answeryd by that tyme that thys bylle comythe to yowe, to hast hym and itt hyddre wards; ffor iff that had nott taryed me, I deme I had been at Caleys by thys daye; ffor it is soo, as men seye, that the Frense Kynge with a gret hoste is at Amyans, but iij^{xx} myle from Caleys; and iff he, or hys, roode byffor Caleys, and I nott theer, I wolde be sorye.

Item, men seye that the Erle of Oxenfford hathe ben constreynyd to sewe ffor hys pardon only off hys lyffe; and hys body, goodes, londes, with all the remenaunt, at the Kynges wyll, and soo sholde in all haste nowe come in to the Kyng; and some men seye that he is goon owt off the Mounte,[1] men wot not to what plase, and yit lefte a greet garnyson theer, weell ffornysshyd in vytayll, and all other thynge.

Item, as ffor the havyng ageyn off Castre, I trust to have good tydyngs theroff hastelye.

Item, my brother John ffarethe weell, and hathe doon ryght delygentlye in my cosyn Elizabet Berneys mater, wheroff hastely I trust he shall sende hyr tydyngs that schall please hyr; and as to morow he purposyth to take hys jurneye to Walys warde to the Lorde Ryverse. No mor at thys tyme, but Jeswe have yow in Hys kepyng.

Wretyn at London the xx. daye off Feverer, Anno E. iiij^{ti} xiij^{o}.

Yowr sone,

J. Paston, K.

737.

A.D. 1474 (?) 26 April.
Lord Hastings to John Paston.

[From Fenn, ii. 296.]

I cannot discover in what year John Paston could have been staying at Guisnes during the month of April at the request of Lord Hastings, unless it was in the year 1474. There seems no other probable year in which we have not distinct evidence of his being elsewhere.

[1] St. Michael's Mount in Cornwall.

To my right trusty and welbeloved servaunt, John Paston, Squier.

JOHN PASTON, I recommaunde me unto you. And whereas I appointed and desired you to goo over unto Guysnes to yeve youre attendaunce and assistaunce upon my brother Sir Rauf Hastings in all suche things as concerne the suretie and defense of the Castell of Guysnes during his infirmyties; it is shewed unto me that ye have full truely and diligently acquyted you unto my saide brother, in all his besynesses sithe your comyng thider. Whereof I thanke you hertly. And as I conceive to my grete comfort and gladnesse, my saide brother is wele recovered and amended, thanked be God. And soo I truste he may nowe spare you. Wherupon I have writen unto him, if he may soo doo, to licence you to come over unto me ayen. Wherefore I woll and desire you, th'assent of my saide brother had, to dispose you to come over in all goodly haste, as well for suche grete maters, as I fele by youre ffrends, ye have to doo here, as to yeve youre attendaunce upon me. And your retourne ye shall be to my welcome.

From London, the xxvj. day of Avrill.

[1] I pray you in no wise to depart as yet without my brother Roaf asent and agrement; and recommaund me to my syster, all my nieces, to the constabyll, and to all Ryves [*reeves*].

Your tru frend, HASTYNGES.

738.

A.D. 1474. 24 July.—ABSTRACT.

[Add. Charter 14,973, B.M.]

Letters patent, dated at Westminster, 24 July, 14 Edw. IV., for levying a subsidy in the county of Norfolk for a war against France.

[1] This postscript is in the writer's own hand, the preceding part of the letter being in that of a clerk. A fac-simile of the postscript is given by Fenn.

739.

A.D. 1474, 25 July.
John Paston to Sir John Paston.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

This letter is endorsed in a contemporaneous hand "Anno xiiij°," showing that it was written in 1474, the 14th year of Edward IV. We also find Sir John writing to his brother in November following that his brother Edmund had heard nothing more of Eberton's daughter.

To Sir John Paston, Knyght, or to hys brodyr Edmund in hys absence, lodgyd at the George by Powlys Wharff, in London.

RYGHT worchepfull sir, I recomand me to yow, preying yow to remembyr, or ye depert ought of London, to spek with Herry Ebertonys wyf, draper, and to enforme hyr that I am profyrd a maryage in London, whyche is worth vj$^{c.}$ [600] mark and bettyr; with whom I preyid yow to comone, in as myche as I myght not tery in London myself, alweys reservyng that if so be that Mastresse Eberton wyll dele with me, that ye shold not conclud in the other place, thow so wer that Eberton wold not geve so moche with Mastress Elyzabet, hys dowghtyr, as I myght have with the other, for syche fantazy as I have in the seyd Mastress Elyzabet Eberton. And that it lyek yow to sey to Ebertons wyff that syche as I spak to hyr of shalbe bettyrd rather then enpeyred as for my part; and if it lyek hyr to deale with me, I wylbe at London for that cawse only with in xiiij. dayis aftyr the wryghtyng of thys byll, with Godes grace, Who preserve yow and yours.

Wretyn at Norwyche, on Seynt Jamys Day.

Also, sir, I prey yow that ye wyll, as I desyerd yow, comon with John Lee or hys wyf, or bothe, and to undyrstond how the mater at the Blak Freerys dothe, and that ye wylle see and spek with the thyng your

sylf, and with hyr fadyr and modyr, or ye depert; and that it lyek yow to desyer John Lee is wyff to send me a byll in all hast possybyll, how fer forthe the mater is, and whedyr it shalbe necessary for me to come up to London hastyly or not, or ellys to kast all at the Kok.

Also, sir, I prey yow that Pytt may trusse in a male, whyche I left in your chambyr at London, my tawny gowne furyd with blak, and the doblet of porpyll sateyn, and the doblet of blak sateyn, and my wryghtyng box of syprese, and my book of the Metyng of the Dwke and of the Emperour, and when all thys gere is trussyd in the male, to delyver it to the berer herof, to brynge me to Norwyche.

Item, I send you herwith the pylyon for the male, and *xs.* for the hyer, whyche is usery, I tak God to rekord.

Also, that it lyek yow to spek with your apotycary, whyche was som tyme the Erle of Warwykes apotycary, and to weet of hym what the wedow of the Blak Freiris is woorthe, and what hyr husbondes name was. He can tell all, for he is excecutore to the wedous husbond. I prey yow forget me not, no more then I do yow. I have spokyn thys day with Jamys Hubberd and Herry Smyth, and to morow I shall have an answer of theym.

Also, my modyr wyll labore thys mater with effect, that the CC. mark may be had for the wood.

Also, brodyr Edmund, I prey yow, and my brodyr Sir John be not in London, that ye wyll labore all thys maters with effect, as my trust is in yow in every poynt as is above wretyn.

Also, I assartayn yow that I was with Ferrour thys day, and he had no leyser to comon with me; but I wyll be with hym ayen to morow by apoyntment betwyx hym and me, and so as I speed I shall send yow woord by the next man that comyth to London.

Also, I sent John Lee is wyff a lettyr by on Crawethorn dwellyng in Wood street, or ellys in Sylver street at the end of Wood street. I prey yow weet whedyr

she had it or nought; and she had it not, brodyr Edmund, I prey yow go to the same Crawethorn, and tak the lettyr of hym, and delyver it hyr in all hast.

J. PASTON.[1]

740.

A.D. 1474, 24 Oct.—ABSTRACT.

[From Paston MSS, B.M.]

"Bill" dated 24 Oct., 14 Edw. IV. relative to the pledging of certain parcels of plate by William Paston, Esq., to Elizabeth Clere of Ormesby. The parcels amount in all to 250 oz. 4 dwt., and are pledged for £40. *Sealed.*

ii. Fair copy of the preceding.

741.

A.D. 1474, 3 Nov.—ABSTRACT.

[From Paston MSS. B.M.]

THE VICAR OF PASTON TO MARGARET PASTON.

When my master Sir John's baily was at Paston he scared your tenants, bidding them pay no rents to Mr William Paston. On which Harry Warns wrote to Mr. William, who bade him warn them not to pay money to any one else; otherwise he would meet them at London "as the law would," or at some market or fair, and make them pay arrears to Midsummer. Beware of Warns, for he made Master William privy to all the examinations of the tenants by my master your son. He also charged the tenants not to sell as my master desired, else Master William would undo them. "*Ideo*, putte no trost in hym, *quia duobus dominis nemo potest servire.*" Pastun, 3 Nov.

[This and the letter following both appear to have been written at the time of Sir John Paston's dispute with his uncle William, at the end of the year 1474.]

742.

A.D. 1474.—ABSTRACT.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

[THE VICAR OF PASTON] TO MRS [MARGARET PASTON.]

John Qwale, farmer of Paston, is distressed by things that

[1] This signature stands in the middle of the postscript.

Henry Warns has done and said against him. Warns carried home "an esse" [*ash*] blown down by the wind, and says it is your will, because Master John Paston has given him power over all that he has in Paston. "More awre he stondes in grete dowte to ery or to sawe" [*to harrow or to sow*], for John of Bactun says he shall have no land, unless he find surety, "and it were no resun that he suld somerlay and compace hys londes to a noder mans hand." Warns says if Qwale put out any cattle at the gates, he will take it for the grain that Master William delivered to him. He says Mrs Margaret Paston [1] has no rule there, and shall have none; also that John Qwale shall not have Gyns close nor the Chyrche close, as he has taken them to farm. "Qwere fore, bott ze gyfe hym oderwas power, he wyll gefe up all."

743.

About A.D. 1474?
[William Paston] to Sir John Paston.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

Of this letter only two fragments remain, giving, as will be seen, a very mutilated text. Little more can be said about the contents than that they refer to money matters between William Paston and his nephew Sir John, which are probably those referred to in succeeding letters. The handwriting is that of William Paston. A mutilated endorsement, apparently in the handwriting of John Paston the younger, shows merely the words "... to Sir J. P. for ..."

[To] my right worshipfull neview [Sir J]ohn Paston, Knyghte, be [this] lettre delivered in hast.

[Right] worshipful neview, I recommaund me to you. And, sir, I pray you . . . . . that ther was none obstacle ner lettinge that ye found in me to . . . . . save me harmeles; at whiche tyme it was thought aswel . . . . . Johns by obligacioun was not inow to save me harm[eles] . . . . . [i]n the meane seasoune; for as your reasoun will give . . . . . ght fell of yow but goode. And if the caas so fill that . . . . . ys will take it on them, than

[1] Mrs. Margaret Paston is here spoken of by name and in the third person, but the letter can hardly be addressed to any one else.

I to bere the losse. Wherupp[on] . . . . . .
. . . . . [b]ound to me to save me harmeles.
And for as muche . . . . . m by
obligacioun of statute merchaunt for you the . . . . . .
. . . . . in myne oune kepinge for my discharge,
and after a . . . . . [r]estorid
me ageyn at this Michelmas. And m . . . . . .
. . . . . shuld hange still till Candil-
mas, and me thinke it is by con . . . . . obliga-
cions paiable at . . . . . [Candle]mas I did at the begyn-
ny[ng] . . . . . will kepe still the . . . . . .
. . . . . or sufficient and that
. . . . . .
as wold pay at th. . . . . .
. . . . . with me than thus . . . . . .
. . . . . indenture
wherby . . . . . .
. . . . . for be cause that ye w . . . . . .
. . . . . experyens.
Also I wold avyse you . . . . . .
. . . . . my Lord of Norffolk.
Also, nevew, there is onne Fr . . . . . .
. . . . . but hym silf and his wif and
. . . . . .
wherfore I have writin to . . . . . .
. . . . . in this matier; and I trust I . . .
. . . . . And I pray
yow that may ha . . . . . .

744.

Date uncertain.—ABSTRACT.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

Fragment of a draft deed by which Sir John Paston and John Paston, Esq., mortgage certain premises not named to the use of Master John Morton, William Paston, Thomas Playter, and Thomas Lovell, for £114.

[Nothing is clear about the date of this document, but we place it here, as bearing, like the last, on money matters between Sir John Paston and his uncle William.]

745.

A.D. 1474.

Sir John Paston to Margaret Paston.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

It is evident from the contents that this letter must have been written shortly before that which follows.

To Mestresse Margrett Paston at Norwyche, or to J. Paston in hyr absence.

RYGHT wyrshypfull and my moste kynde and tendre moodre, I recomaund me to yow, thankyng yow off the grete cost and off the greet chere that ye dyd to me and myn at my last beyng wyth yowe; whyche cheer also hath made me perfyghtly hooll, I thanke God and yow, in so moche that where as I feeryd me that for weykenesse, and so green recuveryd off my syknesse, that I scholde have apeyryd by the weye; but, God thanke yow, I toke so my crommys whyls I was wyth yow, that I felyd my sylfe by the weye that God and ye had made me stronger than I wenyd that I had ben, in so myche that I feell my selffe every daye holler than other.

It was soo that I mett wyth myn onkle William by the weye, and there in the felde I payed hym the iiij*li.* whyche I had borowyd off hym; and he was passyng inquisytyff howe that I was purveyd for recompensyng off Towneshend. I tolde hym I hopyd weell; he tolde me that he undrestood that I had the C*li.* of the Bysshopys executores, and he had herde seye that I had also borowyd another C*li.* of a marchaunt, and so I lakyd but an C. marke. I deme he herde thys of T. Lovell, for I tolde hym that I was in hope to fynde suche a freende that wolde lende me C*li.* He axed me, who was that? I answeryd hym, an olde marchaunt, a freende of myn, but myn oncle thowte that shold be by weye of chevyshanse [*usury*], and to myn horte; wherffor I was pleyne to hym, and tolde hym that ye wer

sewerte therffor, and purveyed it off suche as wolde doo for yowe. And as for the forte [*fourth*] C. mark, he seyde to me that as for that he wolde, rather than joperte sholde be, purvey it by weye off chevyshaunce at London, in so moche that, er he come fro London, he had for my sake leyde v. C. markes worthe of plate with Hewghe Fenne. The place at Warwykes Inne is large, and my grawntdame is agyd; it had ben jopertous to leve moche plate wyth hyr, thoghe halffe were hyr owne. But if I maye do other wyse, I purpose nott to chevyshe any mony by hys meane.

Item, I have delyveryd yowre botell to Courbye the caryer thys same daye, and he promysed me to be with yow on Mondaye nyghte, or ellys on Touesday tymely. He hathe also xl*d.* to paye for the thryd hyryd horse, and he bryngythe the iij. horse wyth hym, and is contente for hys labor and for the mete largely. They be delyveryd hym in as good, and rather better plyght, than whan I had them forthe, and not gallyd nor hurte. He hate also ij. sadelys, one of my brotheres, and one other hyred, as ye woot off.

Item, he hathe a peyre botys off Edmond Reedes, the shomaker, whyche Saundre borowyd off hym. I beseche yowe that William Mylsent or Symme maye se that every man have hys owne.

Item, as for my brother Edmond, blyssyd be God, he is weell amendyd.

Item, as for Hankyn owr dogge, I am a fferde never to see hym, but if [*unless*] yowr good helpe bee.

Item, as for the bookes that weer Sir James, iff it lyke yow that I maye have them, I ame not able to by them; but somwhat wolde I gyffe, and the remenaunt with a goode devowte herte, by my trowthe, I wyll prey for hys sowle. Wherffor iff it lyke yow by the next messenger or karyer to sende hem in a daye, I shall have them dressyd heer; and iff any off them be claymyd here aftre, in feythe I wyll restoor it.

Wretyn on Saterdaye.

JOHN PASTON, K.

746.

A.D. 1474, 20 Nov.
Sir John Paston to Margaret Paston.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

To Mestresse Margrete Paston, or to Roose, dwellyng by-ffore hyr gate at Norwyche.

AFTRE dew recomendacion, my most tendre and kynde moodre, I beseche yow off yowr dayly blessyng. Please it yow to weete that I reseyvyd a lettre thhat come from yowe, wretyn the xxvj. daye of Octobre, none erst but[1] on Wednysday last past, wherby I conceyvyd that, at the wryghtyng off that letter, ye weer nott serteyn of the delyng betwyn Towneshende and me. It was so that, God thanke yow, I receyvyd the xx*li.* broght by Syme, and also the mony browght by my brother, with whyche mony, and with moor that I had my selff, I redemyd the maner of Sporle, and payed Towneshend bothe the CCCC. marke ther ffor, and also x*li.* that I owte hym besyde, and have off hym aqwytaunce off all bargaynes and off all other dettes. Neverthelesse, I assayed hym iff he wolde, iff nede hadde ben, gyvyn me a xij. monyth lenger respyght, whyche he grauntyd to do; but in conclusyon I can nott entrete hym, but that he woll have the uttremest of hys bargayn, and thys xx*li.* payeable at Candelmesse and Esterne. I kan entrete hym noon other wyse as yit; wherffor I thynke, iff I had passyd my daye, it had ben harde to have trustyd to hys cortesye, in so moche I ffynde hym also ryght loose in the tonge. For Bekham, he spekyth no thyng comfortably ther in; what he wyll doo, can I nott seye.

Item, as for Castre, it nedyth nott to spore nor prykke me to doo owghte ther in. I doo that I can

[1] No earlier than.

with goode wyll, and somwhat I hope to doo hastely ther in that shall doo goode.

Item, as for the bokes that weer Syr James, God have hys sowle, whyche it lykethe yow that I shall have them, I beseche yow that I maye have them hyder by the next massenger, and iff I be goon, yit that they be delyveryd to myn ostesse at the George, at Powlys Wharffe, whyche wolle kepe them saffe, and that it lyke yow to wryght to me whatt my peyne or payment shall be for them.

Item, it lyked yow to weet of myn heelle. I thanke God nowe that I am nott greetly syke ner soore, but in myn heele, wherin alle men know nott whatt peyne I feele. And wher ye advysed me to hast me owt of thys towne, I wolde full fayne be hense. I spende dayly mor than I sholde doo, if I wer hense, and I am nott well purveyed.

Item, blessyd be Good, my grauntdam is amendyd by suche tyme as myn oncle W. come hyddre. But my yongest cosyn Margret, hys doghtre, is ded and beryed er he come home.

I am as moche afferde off thys londe that is in hys hande as I was off that that was in Towneshendes hande. I hope to wryght yow moor serteynte within iiij. or v. dayes. No more, &c.

Wretyn the xx. daye of Novembre, anno E. iiij. xiiij°.

Yowr Sone, J. Paston, K.

747.

A.D. 1474, 20 Nov.

Sir John Paston to John Paston.

[From Fenn, ii. 164.]

To John Paston, Esquyer, at Norwyche, or to Roose, dwellyng affor Mestresse Pastonys gate, in Norwych.

RYGHT wyrshypful and weell belovyd brother, I recomaunde me to yow, letyng yow weet that I have comonyd with yowr ffreende Dawnson, and have receyvyd yowr rynge off hym, and he hathe by myn advyce spoken with hyr[1] ij. tymes; he tellythe me off hyr delyng and answers, whyche iff they wer acordyng to hys seyng, a ffeynter lover than ye wolde, and weell aghte to, take therin greet comffort, so that he myght haply slepe the werse iij. nyghtys afftr. And suche delyng in parte as was bytwyen my Lady W. and yowr ffreende Danson he wrote me a bylle theroff, whyche I sende yow herwith; and that that longythe to me to doo therin, it [*I ?*] shall nott ffayle to leeve all other bysynesse a parte. Nevertheless within iij. dayes, I hope so to deele herin, that I suppose to sette yow in serteynte hoghe that ye shall fynde hyr ffor evyr her afftr. It is so, as I undrestande, that ye be as besy on yowr syde ffor yowr ffreende Dawnson, wheer as ye be, I praye God sende yow bothe goode spede in thees werkys, whyche iff they be browte abowte iche off yowe is moche beholden to other; yit were it pyte that suche crafty wowers, as ye be bothe, scholde speede weell, but iff ye love trewly.

Item, as ffor Stoctons doghtr, she shall be weddyd in haste to Skeerne, as she tolde hyrselffe to my sylkemayde,[2] whyche makyth perte off suche as she shall weer, to whom she brake hyr harte, and tolde hyr that she sholde have hadde Master Paston, and my mayde wende it had been I that she speke off; and with moor that the same Mester Paston kome wher she was with xx. men, and wolde have taken hyr aweye. I tolde my mayde that she lyed off me, and that I never spake with hyr in my lyff, ner that I wolde not wedde hyr to have with hyr iij$^{ml.}$ marke.

Item, as for Ebortons dowghtr, my brother Edmonde

[1] Apparently Lady Walgrave, hereafter referred to. She was the widow of Sir Richard Walgrave, Knight.

[2] A person who made gowns of silk, &c. for both men and women, as appears from the manner in which she is here mentioned.—F.

seythe, that he herde never moor speche theroff syns yowr departyng, and that ye wolde that he sholde nott breke, nor doo no thynge therin, but iff it come off theer begynnyng.

Item, I had answer ffrom my Lorde[1] that he is my speciall goode lorde, and that by wryghtyng; and as ffor Bernaye he sette hym in hys owne wages ffor my sake, and that whan so ever I come to Caleys, I shall ffynde all thyng ther as woll have it, and rather better than it was heretoffor.

Item, the Kyng come to this towne on Wednysdaye; as ffor the Frenshe Embassate that is heer, they come nott in the Kynges presence, by lykehod, ffor men seye that the chyeff off them is he that poysonyd bothe the Duke off Berry[2] and the Duke off Calabr.[3]

Item, ther was never mor lyklyhod that the Kyng shall goo ovyr thys next yer than was nowe.

I praye yow remembre that I maye have the pewter vessell heddr by the next karyer by the lattr ende off thys weke.

Item, I praye yow remembr so that I may have the bokys by the same tyme, whyche my moodr seyde she wolde sende me by the next carier.

Wretyn at London, the Sondaye the xx. daye off Novembr, anno E. iiij^ti^ xiiij^o^.

JOHN PASTON, K.

748.

A.D. 1474, 29 NOV.—ABSTRACT.

[From MS. Index in Magd. Coll., Oxford.]

Norfolk and Suffolk Deeds, No. 33. "The agreement and accord between the Bishop of Winton and John Paston, Knight, touching the building of the College at Castre of seven priests and seven poor men, translated by dispensation of the Pope to

[1] I am not certain whether the Duke of Norfolk is here meant, or Lord Hastyngs, the then Governor of Calais.—F.

[2] Charles, Duke of Berry and of Guienne, who was supposed to have been poisoned by order of his brother Lewis XI. in May 1472.

[3] Nicholas of Anjou, Duke of Calabria and Lorraine, who died about the same time as the Duke of Guienne.

seven priests and seven poor scholars in Magdalene College, and touching the lands of Sir John Fastolf. November 29, Edw. IV. 14."

749.

A.D. 1474, 11 Dec.
Sir John Paston to John Paston.

[From Fenn, ii. 170.]

To John Paston, Esquier.

BROTHER, I recomaunde me to yow, letyng yow weete that I have, lyke as I promysyd yowe, I have doon my devoyr to know my Lady Walgraves stomacke, whyche, as God helpe me, and to be pleyn to yowe, I ffynde in hyr no mater nor cawse, that I myght tak comfort off. Sche will in nowyse receyve, ner kepe yowr rynge with hyr, and yit I tolde hyr that sche scholde not be any thynge bownde therby; but that I knew by yowr herte off olde that I wyst weel ye wolde be glad to fforber the lesvest [*dearest*] thynge that ye had in the worlde, whyche myght be dayly in her presence, that sholde cawse hyr onys on a daye to remembr yow, but itt wolde not be. She wolde nott therby, as she seyde, putte yow ner kepe yow in any comffort therby. And mor ovyr, she preyed me, that I sholde never take labor moor heer in, ffor she wolde holde hyr to suche answer as she hadd geven yow to ffoor, wherwith she thowght bothe ye and I wolde have holde us contente, had nott been the words off hyr suster Geneffyeff.

When I undrestood all thys, and that over nyght she bad hyr that weent bytwyen hyr and me byd me brynge with me hyr muskeball[1] which, &c., than I aftr all thys axid iff she weer dyspleasyd with me ffor it, and she seyde, naye.

Than I tolde hyr, that I had nott sent it yowe, ffor

[1] This muskball, or ball of perfume, seems to have been taken from Lady Walgrave by Sir John Paston in a jesting manner, to send to his brother as a present from her.—F.

synne off my sowle, and so I tolde hyr all, how I had wretyn to yow why that I wold nott sende it yow, by cawse I wyst weell ye sholde have slepyd the werse; but nowe, I tolde hyr, as God helpe me, that I wolde sende it yow, and gyffe yow myn advyse nott to hope ovyr moche on hyr, whyche is ovyr harde an hertyd lady ffor a yonge man to tryst on to; whyche I thowght that ffor all my words, ye cowde nott ner wolde nott do ffor all myn advyce.

Yitt ageynwards she is nott dyspleasyd, nor ffor bad me nott but that ye sholde have the kepyng off hyr muskball; wherffor de ye with itt as ye lyke. I wolde it hadd doon weel; by Good, I spake ffor yow soo, that in ffeythe I trowe I kowde nott seye so weel ageyn.

Wherffor I sende yow herwith yowr rynge, and the onhappy muskeball. Also make ye mater off it herafftr as ye kan, I am nott happy to wow nowther ffor my selff ner noon other. I tolde hyr all the processe off the Lorde Howarde and off yowr grewnds [*greyhounds*] as I kowde; all helpys nott.[1]

. . . . . .

I her no worde off my vessell, ner off my boks; I mervayll. No mor.

Wretyn at London, the xj. daye of Decembr, anno E. iiij^ti^ xiiij^o^. J. P., K.

750.

A.D. 1475, 17 Jan.
Sir John Paston to John Paston.

[From Fenn, ii. 174.]

"Though this letter," says Fenn, "has no signature, yet it is written by Sir John Paston, Knight."

To the ryght worshypfull John Paston, Esquier, at Norwych, or to hys modr, Margreet Paston, in hys absence, in haste.

1 "Here follows," says Fenn, "some displeasure at his uncle William's proceedings in matters between them, &c., of no consequence."

I Recomande me to yow, praying yow hertely, that I maye have weetyng when that my Lorde and Lady of Norffolk shalle be at London, and howgh longe they shall tery theer, and in especiall my Lorde of Norffolk; ffor uppon ther comyng to London wer it ffor me to be guydyd. Neverthelesse I wolde be soory to come theer but iff I neds most. I thynke it wolde be to yow ovyr erksom a labor to solycyte the maters atwyen them and me, but iff I weer theer myselffe; wherffor, iff ye thynke it be convenyent that I com thyddr, I praye yow sende me worde as hastely as ye maye, and by what tyme ye thynke most convenyent, that I sholde be theer; and off all suche coumfforte as ye ffynde or heer off the towardnesse theroff, and when also that ye shall be theer yowr selffe. For it is so that as to morow I purpose to ryde in to Flaundrys to purveye me off horse and herneys, and percase I shall see the assege at Nwse[1] er I come ageyn, iff I have tyme; wherffor, iff I so doo, by lyklyhod it woll be a xiiij. dayes er I be heer ageyn; and afftr, as I heer ffrom yowe and other ther uppon, that at the next passage, and God woll, I purpose to come to London warde: God sende me goode spede; in cheff ffor the mater above wretyn; and secondly, ffor to appoynt with the Kyng and my Lorde, ffor suche retynwe as I sholde have now in thees werrys in to Frawnce; wherffor I praye yow, in Norffolk and other places, comon with suche as ye thynke lykly ffor yow and me, that ar dysposyd to take wages in gentylmenns howsys and ellys wher, so that we maye be the moor redy, when that nede is; neverthelesse at thys owr, I wolde be gladde to have with me deyly iij. or iiij. mor than I have, suche as weer lykly; ffor I lakke off my retynwe, that I have neer so many. I praye yow sende me som tydyngs, suche as ye heer, and howghe that my brother Edmonde dothe.

For as ffor tydyngs heer, ther be but ffewe, saffe that

[1] Neuss, not far from Düsseldorf, in the territory of Cologne, at this time besieged by Charles the Bold, Duke of Burgundy.

the assege lastyth stylle by the Duke off Burgoyn affoor Nuse, and the Emperor [1] hathe besegyd also, not fferr from these, a castell, and an other town in lyke wyse, wher in the Dukys men ben. And also, the Frenshe Kynge, men seye, is comyn ryght to the water off Somme with iiij$^{ml.}$ [4,000] spers; and som men trowe that he woll, at the daye off brekyng off trewse, or ellys byffoor, sette uppon the Duks contreys heer. When I heer moor, I shall sende yowe moor tydyngs.

The Kyngs inbassators, Sir Thomas Mongomere and the Master off the Rolls [2] be comyng homwards ffrom Nuse; and as ffor me, I thynke that I sholde be sek but iff I see it.

Syr John off Parre and William Berkeley com thys weye to Flaundrs ward to by them horse and herneys, and [I] made Sir J. Parr goode cheer as I cowde ffor yowr sake; and he tolde me, that ye made hym haulte cheer, &c. at Norwyche. No moor.

Wretyn at Caleys, the xvij. daye off Janever, anno Edwardi iiij^{ti} xiiij^{o}.

751.

A.D. 1475, 29 Jan.

Margaret Paston to John Paston.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

This letter was evidently written on the same day as that immediately following.

To John Paston, Sqwyer, be thys delyveryd in hast.

Jh's.[3]

GRET yow well, and send yow Goddes blyssyng and myn, letyng yow wet that my cosyn Robard Clere was her with me thys weke, and told me that he was nowt payd of the mony

1 Frederick III. of Austria, Emperor of Germany.
2 Dr. John Morton, afterwards Bishop of Ely, Lord Chancellor, Archbishop of Canterbury, and Cardinal.
3 This is the customary contraction of the name Jesus, which was frequently written at the head of a letter.

that ye know that was borowd of hys modyr and of hym, but iiij^{xx}*li.* The xx*li.* that my plegges ly for ys on payd. He seyd that he was desyryd to delyvere my plegges, and to have be payd the xx*li.*; but he wold not, tyll he had spokyn with me, because of the promys that he had mad to me befor that he shuld not delyver them to non withowt my assent. I seyd to hym that I suppose veryly that yowyr brodyr hys a greyd with yowyr hunkyll that he shuld paye all the hole, for I suppose he hath a swerte for ale that and more. I wold undyrstond how yt ys, and how that my seyd cosyn shall be content, for I war loth to lese my plegges; I wot yt well, yowyr good hunkyll wold ben in possessyon with good well, but I wol not soo. I wold that ye shuld speke with yowyr hunkyll ther in, and send me word in hast what he seet [*saith*].

I marvyll, be my trowth, that I had no wrytyng fro yowyr brodyr, er he departyd fro London, as he promysyd in the last lettyr that he sent me, the wych was wretyn be for the Kynges comyng to Norwych; I went [*expected*] veryly to have hard from hym ar [*ere*] thys tyme. I wold ye shuld send hym word of yowyr hunkyles delyng in thys seyd mater, and send me an ansswer ther off.

Recomaund me to yowyr grauntdam. I wold she war her in Norffolk, as well at es as evyr I sy hyr, and as lytyll rewlyd be hyr son as evyr she was, and than I wold hope that we alle shuld far the bettyr for hyr. Yt ys told me that yowyr hunkyll hath mad gret menys and larg profyrs to John Bakton to make a relesse to hym of Oxinhed. Whedyr that be don or nowt, I wot nowt yet, but I shall wot in hast, yf I may.

I wold ye shuld spekyn with my Lord of Norwych, and a say to get a lysen of hym to that I may have the sacrement her in the chapell, because yt ys far to the chyrche, and I am sekly, and the parson ys oftyn owt. For all maner of casweltes of me and myn, I wold havyt grauntyd, yf I myth.

Send me word yf ye her ony tydynges from yowyr brodyr how he doth of hys seknes, and in odyr thynges,

as farforth as ye know, as astely as ye may. I thynk long tyll I her from hym for dyvers causys. God kepe yow.

Wretyn in hast at Mawdby, on the Satyrday next be for Candelmes Day.

Send me an ansswer of thys lettyr in hast, and odyr tydynges, &c.

Be yowyr modyr.

My cosyn Robard told me that ther was mor than vij*li.* of the mony that was payd hym that was ryght on rysty, and he cowd nowt havyt chaungyd. He was on goodly servyd ther in.

752.

A.D. 1475, 29 Jan.
Margaret Paston to Sir John Paston.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

To Ser John Paston, Knyght, be thys delyveryd in hast.

Jh's.[1]

RYGHT welbelovyd son, I gret yow well, and send yow Goddes blyssyng and myn, letyng yow wete that I marveyle that I have had no wrytyng from yow sethyn ye sent me the lettyr that ye sent me be for the Kynges comyng to Norwych; in the whyche lettyr ye wrot to me that ye shuld a wretyn azeyn to me or ye shuld de part owt of London. It ys so that yowyr hunkyll William hath do payd to my cosyn Robard Clere but iiij^{xx}*li.* of the C*li.* and he wol no mor pay but yf [*uniess*] he hath delyveraunc of my plegges, the wych was leyd to plegg for xx^{ti}*li.*; the wych ben bettyr. I wot well, be cause of the good well that he owyt to me, as ye know, he wold ben in possessyon therof. My cosyn, Robard Cler, was her

[1] *See* page 123, Note 3.

with me thys weke, and told me, that yf he wold a delyveryd them, he myth an had the seyd xx*li.*; but he seyd he wold nowt, tyll he had spokyn with me; be my trowth I fynd hym ryght kyndly dysposyd to yow, and to me bothe; and so I have desyryd hym to kepe styll the plegge in hys possessyon, tyll I have word from yow how ye ar agreyd with yowyr hunkyll for the payment of the seyd mony: I wen veryly that ye have fownd hym swerte for alle, and yff ye have soo do, I wold ye shuld wryt to yowyr hunkyll therfor, that I myth have my plegges ageyn, for I war loth that they shuld com in hys fyngyers.

Item, as for Sporyl wood, be ffor the Kynges comyng into Norffolk, I myth an had chapmen to abowtyd [*have bought it*] a gret [*in whole*] for xij^{xx} [*twelve score*] mark, and now ther wol no man by yt a gret, by-cause of the gret good that the pepyll ys leyd to for the Kyng; werfor we ar a bowth to retaylyt as well as we may, and as well as yt can be browth too; and I send yow word how we shall do as astely as I may. As for yowyr barly in thys cuntre, yt cannot be sold above x*d.* or xj*d.*; that ys the gretest prys of barly her, and but yt be at a bettyr prys, I purpose for to do yt malt. And as for mony, I cowd not get yet of Pecok but iij*li.*; and he seth that be than that the owt chargys be boryn, and the repracion of the myll at Wyntyrton, we ar lyke to have but lytyll mor mony besyd the barly. Malt ys sold her but for xiij*d.* and whet ij*s.* or xxvj*d.* at thys time, and otys xij*d.* Ther ys non owtlod suffyrd to goo owth of thys cuntre as yet; the Kyng hath comaundyd that ther shuld non gon owth of thys lond. I fer me that we shall have ryth a straung ward [*world*]; God a mendyd, whan Hys wyll ys. I thank yow for the flakons that ye sent me; they be ryght good, and plesyth me ryght well: I shall be as good an huswyff for yow as I can, and as I wold be for myselff. Send me word how ye doo of yowyr syknes that ye had on yowyr hey [*eye*] and yowyr lege; and yff God wol nowt suffyr yow to have helth, thank Hym therof, and takyt

passhently, and com hom a geyn to me, and we shall lyve to geddyr, as God woll geve us grase to do; and as I have seyd to yow beffor thys, I wold ye war delyveryd of my mastres A. H.,[1] and than I wold trost that ye shuld do the bettyr.

As for the bokys that ye desyryd to have of Syr Jamys,[2] the best of alle and the fayrest ys cleymyd; ner yt ys not in hys inventory. I shall a say to get yt for yow, and I may; the prys of the todyr bokys, besyd that, ys xx*s.* vj*d.* the wych I send yow a byll of. Yf ye lyk be the prys of them, and ye wol have them, send me word. And also I pray yow send me an ansswere of thys lettyr, be cause I thynk long seth I hard from yow. God have yow in Hys kepyng.

Wretyn at Mawdby, on the Sattyrday nex be forn the Purificacion of owyr Lady, the xiiij. yer of Kyng Edward the iiij^{t}.

Yowyr Modyr.

Endorsed—Anno xiiijo.

753.

A.D. 1475, 5 Feb.
Sir John Paston to John Paston.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

To hys brother John Paston, or to hy[s] oncle William Paston, in Werwyk Lane, or to Edmond Paston, at the George, at Powlys Wharfe, to deliver any of them.

RYGHT worshypffull, I recomaunde me on to yow, letyng yow weete that I thynke longe that I heer nott from yow syns Crystmesse, ner have no serteyn knowleche whether that Towneshend hathe performyd hys promysse or nott, ner off my brother Johnys beyng at London, ner off my Lord or Lady off Norfolkes comyng to London, at whoys comyng sholde be the cheffe labor and sewte

[1] Anne Haulte. [2] Sir James Gloys.

that I or or any for me sholde labor. It was soo, God thanke you bothe, that iche off yow, at my last beyng with yow, grauntyd me to take labor uppon yow ; and iche off yow, for the havyng ageyn off my place in Castre. Now is it soo, that wher my verry purpose was to have comyn to London now with the Master of the Rollys[1] and Sir Thomas Mongomere, demyng to fynde the Kyng at the Parlement ; and also that my Lorde and Lady off Norffolk sholde nott by lyklyhod fayle to be theer also : wherffor me thoght the tyme was convenyent ; but it happyd so that suche tydynges come hyddre off the Frenshe Kynges hasty comyng in to thees marchys of Pykardye, whyche cawsyd my Lordes Depute and Cownsell heer to desyr and charge me soo streyghtly, that in noo wyse I maye, tyll I heer other tydynges, departe from hense. Notwithstondyng the Marchall and Counsell heer have wretyne to my Lorde Lywe tenant for me, and moor over desyryd bothe the Master of the Rollys and Sir T. Mongomere to remembre my materes bothe to the Kynge and to my lorde, in so moche that, iff the season be convenyent, both the seyd Master and Syr T. Mongomere wille labore bothe the Kynge and my lorde to entrete my Lorde off Norffolk, my lady hys wyff, and ther consell, to do for me all that reason wyll ; of whoys good willes and labor her in I ame better ensuryd off, than I kan for lakke of leyser at thys tyme wryght yowe wetyng off ; wherffor I praye yow and iche of yow, iff the season be convenyent, to take the labor, that theese jentyllmen maye do for me, and to my proffyght, like as I feelle them dysposyd to doo ; and moore over I have somwhatt informyd them bothe ther in ; and also that I maye hastyly heer from yow, and iff it come to that any mony most be gevyn to my Lorde or Lady off Norffolk ffor a plesyr herffor, I woll, uppon as I heer from yow, come to yow in alle hast possible, all thynges leyde a parte.

Item, iff any letter be requesyth to be hadde, in lyke forme as oonys ther was from the Kyng to my Lorde oft

[1] John Morton, afterwards Bishop of Ely.

Norffolk, Sir T. Montgomere will by your advyces opteyne yow suche one off yowr entents to my proffyghte in the premyssys, and by thys my wryghtyng I bynde me to repaye yowe, iff any suche letter or wryghtyng be opteynyd, what so ever it coste. No more for lakke off leysor.

Wretyn at Caleys, the v. day of Feverer, anno E. iiij. xiiij°.

As for tydynges heer, my masteris th'embassatores, Sir T. Mongomere, and the Master of the Rollys, kom streyght from the Duke at hys assege at Nywysse, whyche wyll nott yitt be wone.

Yowr JOHN PASTON, K.

754.

A.D. 1475, 22 Feb.

SIR JOHN PASTON TO MARGARET PASTON.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

To Mestresse Margret Paston, at Norwyche, be thys delyveryd.

PLEASE it yow to weete that I receyvyd a letter from yow, wretyn the Saterdaye next byffor Candelmesse; for answer wheroff, lyke it yow to weete, that as for the bokys that weer Sir James (God have hys sowle!), I thynke best that they be styll with yow, tyll that I speke with yow my selffe. My mynde is now nott most uppon bokes.

Item, as for xx*li.* that ye sey that yowr plate lythe for, it is so, that I fownde my oncle William no sewerte therffor, as Playter and my brother John bothe cowde enfforme yow; it was never desyryd of me, ner the tolde me nott that any suche pledge laye for it, but that ye hadd dyschargyd me of xx*li.* and chevysshyd it, and that ye sholde repaye it in hast; wherin I woll do as ye woll, and as it pleasyth yow to sende me wetyng.

Item, I ame sory that ye be no better payd off the

xx*li.* that I had off yowe, whyche ye sholde have receyvyd ageyn off my londes in Flegge. Iff the markett be nott goode yit, I hope it shall be better; never the lesse my wylle is that ye sholde have yowr holl xx*li.* ageyn, and not lose j*d.* Wherffor if it be so that ye be mysse servyd ther, I beseche yow off pacyence tyll the begynnyng of the next yeer, and iff aught be behynd, ye shall receyve uppe the remenaunt then, for, as God helpe me, I wolde be sory that ye lost moor for me; I have pytte yow to cost, charge, and losse i nowge, God thanke yow of it, thoughe ye lose no more. Wherffor iff Sporle woode sprynge any sylver or golde, it is my wyll that fyrst of alle ye be yowr owne payer off all that is be hynde; and next thatt, to paye myn oncle William vij^{xx}vj*li.*, xiij*s.* iiij*d.* and besyd that, xvj*li.* lost uppon the chevysshaunce of iiij^{xx}*li.*; and so I owe viij^{xx}ij*li.* xiij*s.* iiij*d.* Wherffor I beseche yow to make hast in repayment heroff as fast as it wolle growe, as my trust is in yowe.

Item, wher it pleasyd yow to weete of myn heele and amendyng; I thanke Godde I ame in goode case, and as goode a full hooll, bothe off the fevre, agwe off myn ie, myn legge, and myn heele, saff that I ame tendre off all theese; and were nott goode rewle, full like to feell off iche off them ryght soone; neverthelesse, God thanke yow off yowr large profre, wheroff I wolde be ryght gladde iff I myght, for trobles and other labor that I have takyn on me nowe in to Fraunce warde; for the goode spede off me, and that jorneye, I beseche yow of yowr preyeres and remembrance; and thatt jorney, with Goddes grace, ones doon, I purpose verrely, with Goddes grace, therafftre to daunce atendaunce most abowt yowr plesure and ease: and with Goddes grace, soone uppon Esterne, er evyr I goo forthe, I hope to se yow, and fecche your blessynge. No moor at thys tyme, but Jesus have yow in Hys kepyng.

Wretyn at Caleys, the xxij. daye of Feverer, anno E. iiij^{ti} xiiij°. Yowr Sone,

John Paston, K.

On the back of the preceding letter is written in another hand, as follows:—

Memorandum, that Syr John Paston owthe to William Paston, acordyng to the endenture made be twex them,—

viij^{xx}ij*li.* xiij*s.* iiij*d.*

Wheroff payable the firste day of Octobre for Townsend, C. marke.

Item, the xxvj. day off Novembre,— iiij^{xx}.xvj*li.*

755.

A.D. 1475, 5 March.

Margaret Paston to John Paston.

[From Fenn, ii. 178.]

This Letter was written on the back of Letter 750.

JOHN PASTON, I send yow Godds blyssyng and myn, letyng yow wete, that I hadd non er thys lettyr than on Sent Matheus Evyn; yf I myth a had an massenger or thys tym I had sent yt yow. I con yow thank for the lettyr that ye sent to my cosyn Calthorpp and me of the tydyngs; I wold ye shuld do soo mor. As ye may remembyr that I spak to yow for the xx^{ti}*li.* for my cosyn Clere, spek to yowr hunkyll therof, and send me an answer therof in hast. And for the lycens that I spak to yow for, to have the Sacrement in my Chapell, yf ye cannot getyt of the Busshop of Norwych, getyt of the Busshop of Caunterbery, for that ys most swyr for all plase. God kepe yow.

Wretyn on Mydlent Sunday.

756.

About A.D. 1475, 26 March.

Richard Southwell to John Paston.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

Fenn thinks the gentleman here referred to was John Berney of Reedham, Esquire, who married Alice, daughter of Richard Southwell, Esquire of Wood Rising, the writer of this letter. He accordingly dates it about the year 1475, and I see no reason to question his opinion.

To the right worshippfull, and my right feithfull gode cosin, John Paston, Esquier.

RIGHT worshippfull and my right feithfull gode cosin, I recomaunde me unto you, and, as hertily as I can, thanke you of your right gentill and kynde remembraunce, that I conseyve well by your late writyng that ye have to me wardes, undeserved in dede, but not in will, so God helpe me, as ye shuld weell knowe, if my power might accorde with my will. And, cosin, in the mater that it liked you to remembre me in, bothe to my worshipp and pleaser, I feere me that nouther my pouere doughter nor pouere purs can nor may be to his pleaser; wold God outher might; and I shuld take me right neere to his pleaser, savyng myself, I ensure you by my trouth. And howe to understand his pleaser and disposicion therin, I see no mean as thus advised, but if [*unless*] it might please you by your wisdam to attempte it forther, as ye seme moste conveniente, and theruppon I to be guyded by your gode advise, as the cas shall require; wherin ye shall bynde me herefter to do that may be to your pleaser to my power, and yette with no better will than I have had, so God help me, Who have you ever in His kepinge, and sende you your hertes desire to His pleaser; and if it pleas you to remembre further in the premisses, I trust ye shall leese no labour on my pouere parte; howe be it I fere me sore, as I be gan, bothe of my pouere doughter and purs.

Writon at Woderysyng, the morn efter Our Lady Day, in haste.

I require you this bill may be secrete.

By your trewe cosin,

RIC. SUTHWELL.

757.

A.D. 1475 (?) [29 March.]
JOHN PASTON TO MARGARET PASTON.

[From Fenn, iv. 444.]

This letter was evidently written in 1475, when John Paston and one or more of his younger brothers were about to go over to France

with the King's army.—*See* Letter 758. Margaret Paston was at that time continually resident at Mauteby.

To my ryght worchepfull modyr, Margaret Paston, at Mawtby.

RYGHT worchepfull modyr, aftyr all humbyll recomendacyons, as lowely as I can I beseche yow of your blyssyng. Pleasyt yow to wete that late yester nyght I cam to Norwyche, purposeing to have been as thys day with yow at Mawtby, but it is so that I may not hold my purpose, for he that shall pay me my quarter wagys for me and my retenew, is in Norwyche, and waytyth ourly when hys money shall com to hym. It is oon Edmund Bowen of the Cheker, a specyall frend of myn, and he avysyth me to tery tyll the money be com, lest that I be unpayed, for who comyth fyrst to the mylle, fyrst must grynd.

And as I was wryghtyng thys byll, on of the gromys of my lords chambyr cam to me, and told me, that my lady wyll be here in Norwyche to morow at nyght towards Walsyngham, whyche shall, I wot well, be a nother lett to me; but I had more need to be other wyse ocupyed then to awayte on ladyse, for ther is as yett, I trowe, no sperre that shall go over the see, so evyll horsyd as I am. But it is told me that Rychard Call hathe a good horse to sell, and on John Becher of Oxborough hathe an other; and if it myght please yow to geve Syme leve to ryd in to that contre at my cost, and in your name, seying that ye wyll geve on of your sonys an horse, desyryng hym that he wyll geve yow a penyworthe for a peny, and he shall, and the pryse be resonabyll, hold hym pleasyd with your payment ought of my purse, thow he knowe it not or hys horse depert fro hys lands. Modyr, I bese[che] yow, and it may please yow to geve Syme leve to ryde on thys message in your name, that he may be here with me to morow in the mornyng be tymys, for wer I onys horsyd, I trowe I wer as ferforthe redy as some of my neyghborows. I

herd a lytyll word that ye purposeid to be here in Norwyche thys next week. I prey God it be thys week. Modyr, beseche yow that I may have an answer to morow at the ferthest of thys mater, and of eny other servyse that it please yow to comand me, whyche I wyll [be] at all seasons redy to acomplyshe with Gods grace, Whom I beseche to preserve yow and yours.

Wretyn at Norwyche, thys Wednysday in Estern Week.

By your sone and servaunt,

J. P.

758.

A.D. 1475, 23 May.

Margaret Paston to Sir John Paston.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

This letter is endorsed "Mens' Maii, anno xv°." The date is confirmed by the fact that in 1475 the Tuesday after Trinity Sunday was the 23d of May.

Un to Syr John Paston, be this delyvered in hast.

RYGHT welbelovyd son, I grete you well, and send you Cristes blissyng and myne, desyringe to know how ye faire. I mervaile that I have herd no tydynges from you sythe ye sent me the lettyr of an answere of the xx*li.* the which I have layde pleages for to my cosyn Cleere, the which letter was wryten the xxij^{ty} day of Februar; and as for that money, I can not gete no lenger day therof than Mydsomer, or fourte nyght after; and towardys that money, and the xx^{ty}*li.* that I send yow by syde to London by Sym, I have receyved no mor money of yowres, but as moch as I send yow wryten in this letter. And as for any discharge that I promysed at the boroeng off the xx^{ti}*li.* when I leyde the pleages ther fore, I thought not but that your uncle shuld a boroed them owte, and I to have had my pleages, as well as he his; never the

less I shall be the warer how I shall dele here aftyr. By my trowth, I wote not how to do ther fore; the Kyng goth so nere us in this cuntre, both to pooer and ryche, that I wote not how we shall lyff, but yff [*unless*] the world amend. God amend it, whan His wyll is. We[1] can nother sell corne ner catell to no good preve. Malt is here but at x*d.* a comb; wheete, a comb xxviij*d.*; ootes, a comb x*d.*; and ther of is but lytell to geet here at thys tyme. William Pecok shall send you a byll what he hath payde for yow for ij. taskes at this tyme; and how he hath purveyde for the remnaunte of your corne; and also off other thynges that be necessary that shuld be purveyd for in your absence. Send me word also whome ye wyll desyre to do for yow in this contre, or ellys where in your absence; and wryte to them to do for yow, and they wyll be the better wylled to do for yow; and I wyll do my devyr for yow also, as well as I can.

The somma off money that I have receyvyd off Wylliam Pecok:—First, xl*s.* off Runnham. Item, off Bastwyk, xx*s.* Item, off Runnham, xx*s.* Item, off him for barly at Runnham, xx*s.* Item, off the fyschynge at Bastwyke, xiij*s.* iiij*d.* Item, for barely sold at Runnham, viij*s.* Summa totalis, vj*li.* xvj*d.*

Item, I have receyvyd of Ric. Calle, of Sporle wodd, xxvj*s.* viij*d.*, and more shall I hope here aftyr within short tyme; as I receyve for yow, I hope to yeff yow a trew acownt; and this is all that I have receyvyd for yow zytt, sen ye departyd hens. God bryng yow well ageyn to this contre, to His pleasans, and to your wurshyp and profyzt.

Wryten at Mawteby, the xxiij[ty] day of May, and the Tewsday next afftyr Trinyte Sonday.

For Goddes love, and your brether go over the see, avyse them as ye thynk best for her [*their*] save garde. For some of them be but yonge sawgeres, and wote full lytyll what yt meneth to be as a sauger, nor for to endure to do as a sawger shuld do. God save yow all,

[1] *We.* Originally written *I*, and corrected.

and send me good tythynges of yow all. And send ye me word in hast how ye doo, for I thynk longe to I here off yow. Be youre Modyr.

Item, I wold not in no wyse that ye shuld nother sell nor sett to pleage that ye have in Runnham, what som ever fortune of the remnaund; for yt is a praty thyng, and resonable well payde, and nere thys towne. I wold be ryght sory that ye shuld for bere that; I had lever ye for bore that your uncle hath to morgage than that.

759.

A.D. 1475, 28 May.—Abstracts.

[From MS. Index in Magd. Coll., Oxford.]

Norfolk and Suffolk Deeds, No. 13.

"Johannes Paston miles relaxat Willielmo Wynton' episc. et aliis totum jus de et in manerio de Tichwell, Essex in Hickling, Guton, Beyton, Newton, Calcotes in Fretton, Leyestoft, Habeland, Brodeston, et Gorleston. Maii 28, Edw. IV. 15."

No. 32.

"Charta Johannis Paston militis de terris Johannis Fastolf pert. prædict. Johanni, et continens concessionem quarundam evidentiarum episcopo Winton', et relaxationem orationum, actionum, et demandarum versus prædictum episcopum. Maii 28, Edw. IV. 15."

760.

A.D. 1475, 13 June.
Sir John Paston to John and Edmund Paston.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

This letter must have been written in the year 1475, when, as will be seen by No. 758, some of Sir John Paston's brothers, among whom doubtless were both John and Edmund, to whom this letter is addressed, were going over to Calais. The Bishop of Lincoln (Rotherham) was Chancellor in 1475. It

is true the Great Seal was taken from him on the 27th April, and given to Alcock, Bishop of Rochester, until the 28th September, when it was restored to Rotherham. But it is certain this letter could not have been written in a later year, as the Duke of Norfolk died in January 1476.

To John Paston, or to hys brother Edmond Paston, at the George, at Powles Wharf.

BROTHER Edmonde, it is soo that I heer telle that ye be in hope to come hyddre, and to be in suche wages as ye schall come lyve lyke a jentylman, wheroff I wolde be gladde. Wherffor, for yowr better speede, I lete you weete that Heugh Beamond is deed; wherffor I wolde ye had hys roome nowe or never, iff ye can brynge it abowt; ellys iff ye dispose yowe to abyde in Inglonde, syns it is so that the Bysshop of Lynkolne[1] is Chaunceler, hys servyse is the meter for yow; he is next neyghbor to Norffolk off any astate. God sende yow some good warde of hys.

I praye you, iff yowr leyser be ther aftre to remembre Towneshende, that he, with the advyse and assystence of my Master of the Rollys,[2] have one daye off marche with the slawe Bysshop of Wynchester, that he maye kepe me hys promyse, that is to seye, to entrete the Duke and Duchesse of Norffolk for Caster. He promysed to doo it, and to ley owt an C*li.* for the same.

Item, I praye yow sende me some tydynges within v. dayes aftre that ye see thys bylle.

Wretyn at Caleys, the xiij. daye off June.

JOHN PASTON, K.

761.

A.D. 1475, 10 Aug.

MARGARET PASTON TO SIR JOHN PASTON.

[From Fenn, ii. 180.]

[1] Thomas Rotherham.

[2] *See* p. 123, Note 2.

To the right worshipffull Sir John Paston, Knyght, in haste.

RIGHT welbeloved sone, &c. . . . . .
. . . . . .
. . . . . .
. . . . . .
. . . . . .[1]

As for tidyngs here in this contre, we have non, but that the contry is bareyn of money; and that my Lady of Yorke[2] and all her howsold is here at Sent Benetts,[3] and purposed to abide there stille, til the Kynge come from be yonde the see, and lenger if she like the eyre ther, as it is seide.

I thynke ryght longe tille I here some tidyngs for [*quære*, from?] you and from your brethren. I prey God sende you and al your company goode spede in your journeys, to His plesure, and to your worshippes and profights.

Wreten at Mauteby, on Sen Lawrens Even, the xv. yere of the regne of Kyng E. the iiijth.

Be yor Moder.

762.

A.D. 1475, 11 Sept.
Sir John Paston to Margaret Paston.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

It is evident that this letter was written after the return of King Edward IV. from France in 1475.

[1] The chief part of this letter relates to Sir John Paston's private affairs, his rents and lands, and informs him that William Jenney had entered into Holme Halle, in Filby, "in the ryght and titell of his douterlawe, weche was Boys doughter," &c.—F.

[2] Cecily, Duchess of York, daughter of Ralph Neville, Earl of Westmoreland, was the widow of Richard Plantagenet, Duke of York, and mother of King Edward IV. &c. She died in 1495, and was buried near her husband in the college of Fotheringay.—F.

[3] The Abbey of St. Bennet at Holm.

To Mestresse Margret Paston, at Norwyche.

RYGHT reverend and my most tendre and kynde moodre, I recomaunde me to yow. Please it yow to weete that, blessyd be God, thys wyage of the Kynges is fynysshyd for thys tyme, and alle the Kynges ost is comen to Caleys as on Mondaye last past, that is to seye, the iiij. daye of Septembre; and at thys daye many of hys host be passyd the see in to Inglond ageyn, and in especiall my Lorde off Norffolk and my bretheryn.

Item, I was in goode hope to have hadde Caster ageyn. The Kynge spake to my Lorde off Norffolk for it, and it was full lyke to have comyn; but in conclusyon it is delayed tyll this next terme, by whyche tyme the Kynge hat comaundyd hym to take advyce off hys councell, and to be sywer that hys tytle be goode, or ellys the Kyng hathe asserteynyd hym that for any favor he most do me ryght and justyce, &c.

And iff Caster hadde comen, by my feythe I had comyn streyhte home. Notwithstondyng, iff I may do yow servyce or eese, as ye and I have comonyd heer to foor, aftre as I heer from yow, as God helpe me, I purpose to leeffe alle heer, and come home to yow, and be yowr hosbonde and balyff; wher in I spake to my brother John to telle yow myn advyce.

I also mysselyke somwhat the heyr heer; for by my trowte I was in goode heele whan I come hyddre, and all hooll, and to my wetyng I hadde never a better stomake in my lyffe, and now with in viij. dayes I am crasyd ageyn. I suppose that I most be at London at Mychelmesse, and ther to purveye for payment for myn oncle William, by whyche tyme I praye yow that I may heer from yow and off yowr advyce and helpe, iff any thynge be growyn off Sporle woode. For had nott yit that danger have been, I mygh yit have ben at home with yow at thys daye, or with in vij. dayes aftre. No more, but I beseche Jesus have yow in kepyng.

Wretyn at Caleys, the xj. daye of Septembre.

JOHN PASTON, K.

763.

A.D. 1475, 10 Oct.
John Paston to Sir John Paston.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

To the ryght worchepfull Sir John Paston, Knyght, lodgyd at the George, by Powlys Wherf, in London.

RYGHT werchepfull sir, I recomand me to yow, sertyfying yow that I have comonyd with Barnard and other your wellwyllers with my Lord of Norffolk, whyche avise me that ye shold, for your nyghest meane to get Caster a yen, labore to get a lettre fro the Kyng dyrect to R. Sothewell, Jamys Hubbard, and other of my lordys consayll being, and to iche of theym; and in the seyd letter to lete theym have knowlage that the Kyng mevyd to my lord of the seyd mater beyond the see, and hough my lord answerd the Kyng that at hys comyng in to Inglond he wold meve to hys seyd consayll of the seyd mater, and geve the Kyng an answer. Wherfor the Kyng in the seyd lettyr must streyghtly charge theym, and iche of theym, to comon with my lord in the seyd mater in syche wyse that the Kyng may be sertyfyed of an answer fro my lord and theym at the ferthest by *crastino Animarum;*[1] for Suthewell nor Jamys Hubbard shall not be at London befor Halowmass, and thys is the best wey that ye may take, as we thynke here.

My lady sweryth, and so dothe Barnard on hyr behalff, that she wold as fayne ye had it as eny body; notwithstandyng she seyd not so to me, sythe I cam hom, for I spak not with hyr but onys sythe I sye yow last. Yet she lythe in Norwyche, and shall do tyll she be delyverd; but I have be seek ever sythe I cam on thys syd the see, but I trust hastyly to amend

[1] The Morrow of All Souls, *i.e.*, 3d Nov.

for all my seknesse that I had at Caleys, and sythe I cam over also, cam but of cold. But I was never so well armyd for the werre as I have now armyd me for cold; wherfor I avyse yow, take exampyll by me, if it happyn yow to be seek, as ye wer when I was at Caleys, in eny wyse kepe yow warme. I weene Herry Woodhous nor Jamys Arblaster ware never at onys so many cotys, hose, and botewx as I doo, or ellys by God we had gone therfor. What we shall yet I can not sey, but I bere me bold on ij. dayes amendyng.

My modyr sendyth yow Godes blyssing and hers, and she wold fayne have yow at home with hyr; and if ye be onys mette, she tellyth me ye shall not lyghtly depart tyll dethe depart yow.

As I was wryghtyng thys lettyr, on told me that the Kyng shold be at Walsyngham thys next.[1] If it be so, it wer best for yow to awayte on the Kyng all the wey, and if ye have not men and horse i nowghe I shall send yow. Do as ye thynk best; and as ye wyll have me to do, send me your avyse, and I shall accomplyshe it to my power, with Godes grace, Who preserve yow.

Wretyn at Norwyche, the x. day of October, anno xv° E. iiij^ti^. P. J.[2]

764.

A.D. 1475, 23 Oct.

John Paston to Sir John Paston.

[From Fenn, ii. 182.]

To Sir John Paston, Knyght, lodgyd at the George, by Powlys Wherff, in London.

AFTYR all dwtes of recomendacyon, please it yow to undyrstand that I have spoken with my lady[3] sythe I wrot to yow last; and she told me that the Kyng had no syche woordys

[1] So in MS. *Qu.*, the word "week" omitted?
[2] It is curious that John Paston has here reversed his initials.
[3] The Duchess of Norfolk.

to my lord for Caster, as ye told me; but she seyth that the Kyng axid my lord at hys departyng fro Caleys, how he wold deele with Caster, and my lord answerd nevyr a woord.

Sir W. Brandon[1] stood by, and the Kyng axid hym what my lord wold do in that mater; seying that he had comandyd hym befor tyme to meve my lord with that mater, and Sir W. Brandon gave the Kyng to answer that he had doone so; then the Kyng axid Sir W. B. what my lordys answer was to hym, and Sir W. B. told the Kyng that my lords answer was that the Kyng shold as soone have hys lyff as that place; and then the Kyng axid my lord whedyr he seyd so or nought, and my lord seyd, yee. And the Kyng seyd not o woord ayen, but tornyd hys bak, and went hys wey; but my lady told me, and the Kyng had spokyn any woord in the world aftyr that to my lord, my lord wold not have seyd hym nay. And I have gevyn my lady warnyng that I wyll do my lord no more serveys; but er we partyd, she mad me to make hyr promess that I shold let hyr have knowlege er I fastonyd myselff in eny other servysse; and so I departyd, and sye hyr not syness, nor nought purpose to doo, tyll I spek with yow.

I prey yow bryng home some hattys with yow, or and ye come not hastyly, send me on, &c., and I shall pay yow for it a comb otys[2] when ye come home.

My modyr wold fayn have yow at Mawtby; she rode thydyr ought of Norwyche on Saturday last past, to purvey your lodgyng redy ayenst your comyng.

I have been ryght seek ayen sythe I wroote to yow last, and thys same day have I ben pessyng seek; it wyll not ought of my stomak by no mean. I am undon. I may not ete halff i nough, when I have most hungyr,

[1] Sir William Brandon was father of Charles Brandon, afterwards created Duke of Suffolk.—F.

[2] In 1475, a comb of oats sold for 11*d.*; we have therefore the value of a hat in this reign.—F. In No. 758 the price of oats is given as 10*d.* a comb, but the markets are considered to be bad.

I am so well dyettyd, and yet it wyll not be. God send yow heele, for [I] have non iij. dayes to gedyr, do the best I can.

Wretyn at Norwyche, the Monday next be for Seynt Simone and Jude,[1] anno E. iiij. xv°.

J. P.

765.

A.D. 1475.—John Paston to Margaret Paston.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

This letter seems to have been written shortly before the confinement of the Duchess of Norfolk in December 1475.

HFTYR all dewtes of recomendacyon, in as humbyll wyse as I can, I beseche yow of your blyssyng. The cheff cause that I wryght to yow for at thys season is, for that I undyrstand that my lady[2] wold be ryght glad to have yow a bought hyr at hyr labore; in so myche that she hathe axyd the questyon of dyvers gentyll-women whedyr they thought that ye wold awayte on hyr at that season or nought, and they answerd that they durst sey that ye wold, with ryght good wyll, awayte on hyr at that tyme, and at all other seasons that she wold comand yow. And so I thynk that my lady wyll send for yow; and if it wer your ease to be here, I wold be ryght glad that ye myght be here, for I thynk your being here shold do gret good to my brodyrs maters that he hathe to sped with hyr. Wher-for, for Godes sake, have your horse and all your gere redy with yow, whersoever ye be, ought or at home, and as for men, ye shall nott need many, for I wyll come for yow, and awayte on yow my sylf, and on or ij. with me; but I had need to undyrstand wher to fynd yow, or ellys I shall happyly seeke yow at Mautby, when ye be at Freton, and my lady myght then fortune to be ferforthe on hyr jorney or ye cam, if she wer as swyfte as ye wer onys on Good Fryday.

[1] 28th of October. [2] The Duchess of Norfolk.

And as for the mater in the latter end of my brodyr Sir Johnys lettyr, me thynk he takyth a wronge wey, if he go so to werk; for as for the peopyll here, I undyrstand non other but that all folkys here be ryght well dysposyd towardes that mater, fro the hyghest degre to the lowest, except Robart Brandon and John Colvyll; and it is a grete lyklyhod that the grettest body is well dysposyd towardes that mater, in as myche as they wold put yow to the labore above wretyn, and if they wer not, I thynk they wold not put yow to that labore.

Also here was here with me yesterday a man fro the Priour of Bromholme to lete me have knowlage of the ille speche whyche is in the contre now of new, that the tombe is not mad; and also he seythe that the clothe that lythe over the grave is all toryn and rotyn, and is not worth ij*d.*, and he seythe he hathe pachyd it onys or twyis. Wherfor the Pryour hathe sent to yow at the leest to send thedyr a newe clothe a yenst Estern.

Also Mastyr Sloley prayith yow, for Godes sake, and ye wyll do non almess of tylle [*tile*] that he myght borow some of yow tyll he may bye some, and pay yow ayen; for on [*one*] the fayrist chambyrs of the Fryers, standyth half oncoverd for defaulte of tylle, for her is yett non to get for no money. And the Holy Trynyte have yow in kepyng.

At Norwyche, thys Twysday.

Your sone and humbyll servaunt,

J. Paston.

766.

A.D. 1475.—Sir John Paston to Edward IV.

[From a MS. in the Bodleian Library.]

The Castle of Caister was surrendered to the Duke of Norfolk in September 1469, but he must have been taking the rents of the manor for a year or two before. From what is stated in this petition, the Duke must have given

it up again in the end of the year 1470, *i.e.*, during the restoration of Henry VI.; but he entered again after half a year, and the date of this second entry is given by William Worcester as the 23d June 1471. After this, the petition says, he kept possession for four years and more, so that the date of the document must be towards the close of the year 1475. The Duke died on the 17th January 1476.

[To the King] our souverain Lord.

[SHEWETH] unto your highnesse your feythful liegeman and servaunt, John Paston, Knight, that wher Sir William Yelverton, William Jenney, and Thomas Howes were infeffed in certain . . . . [to the] use of your said suppliaunt, they of grat malice confetered with oon or ij. of the counsell of my lord the Duc of Norffolk, caused the same Duc to clayme tytle unto [the mano]ir of Caster and other lands of your said suppliant, wherinne the said Yelverton and his coofeffees wer infeffed, contrary to th'entent and wille that thei wer enfeffed for; upon whiche title the said Duc with great force asseyed and entred the said manoir of Castre and other lands of your said suppliant, putting hym from the lawful possession and estate that he had in the same, and also take from him vj$^{c.}$ shepe and xxx. nete, and the same, with other stuf and ordinaunces longing to the same manoir, of the value of C*li.* toke and caryed awey, and the said manoir diffaced, hurt, and appeired, so that it coude not be repaired with CC. marc. Also the revenues of the said lands by the space of iij. yeres, to the value of vij^{xx}*li.*, the same my lord the Duke receyved, and the owtrents of the same never payed, whiche great trouble was like to be the undoing of your said suppliant; wherfor he was fayn to sue to the said Duc and lord by the meanes of his godsip the Bisshop of Wynchestre, whiche was in his special favour; at whos contemplacion, and for v$^{c.}$ [500] marc whiche the same your suppliant payed unto the same Duc, he graunted him to have agen his said manoir and lands, and to restor him to the possession of the same, whiche was so doen. And your said suppliant being in peasible possession, my said lord

the Duc and his cofeffees, Sir William Brandon, Thomas Hoo, Rauf Ashton, and other, at the desir of my said lord, relessed their estate and interesse, as wel under my said lordes sele as under their own sele. Wherupon your said besecher continued in possession but half a yer; at whiche time he was chargid in reparacions to the somme of C. marc, and payed the owt rents dewe by the space of the said iij. yer to the some of xl*li.* That doon, my said lord, by sinistre motive and advice, with force agen entred the said manoir and other lands aforsaid with alle stuf of howshold being in the same manoir to the value of C. marc, and so long time hath kept and rejoysed the revenues of the said lands, and in chief the said manoir, to the value of vj^{xx} *li.* by the space of iiij. yer and mor; for redresse wherof yor said suppliant hath this said space of iiij. yer sued to my said lord and his counsell, and of alle that time the same my lord wold never suffre him to come in his presence, ne here him, ne noon other for him to declair or shewe his grief. And furthermor whanne your said besecher hath sued to the counsel of my said lord, and desired them to move his lordship therinne, and to answer him resonably and according to right, they answered that thei have shewed my said lord his request, and that he was, and is alwey, so moved and displesed with them, that thei dar nomor move him therinne. And thus yor said suppliant hath loste alle his coste and labour, to his charge by his feyth this iiij. yer in his sute, the somme of v$^{c.}$ marc, and now is owt of remedye, without your habundant grace be shewed in that behalve, in somoche as he is not of power t'attempt your lawes ayenst so mighty and noble estate, nor t'abide the disples of him. Wherfor please it your moost noble grace, at the reverence of God, to move my said lord to withdrawe the affeccion whiche he so hath to the said manoir and lands, and to suffre your said besecher to have and enjoye the possession of the same according to right; and he at your commandment shal relesse unto my

said lord alle the damages above wretyn, whiche amount to the somme of m^{l}ccc.liij*li.* vj*s.* viij*d.*, and in time to come, with Goddes grace, be the mor hable to do you service, and also specially preye to God for the conservacion of your moost noble persone and estate royall.

Endorsed in a later hand— . . . . Paston mil. Regi pro . . . . . Norff. in . . . . . de Caister.

767.

About A.D. 1475.—Abstract.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

Robert Whynbergh to Sir John Paston.

Has ridden 100 miles to get out the obligation of Craksheld and Salter. Has been opposed by Mr. Lovell, as they are his tenants. Understands it is in my lord's closet, and the tenants are warned to pay no money without it. They keep from him the farm of the Priors Maner as well as Strehalle.[1] Desires him to write to Mr. William Paston to inform my lord of a wrongful distress taken by John Markham at Strehall in Cressingham, which is held of the King's manor of Necton. They took cattle in lambing time in March, in the 14th year of this King, "and put Craksheld and Salter in such fear of losing of their cattle that they were bound to my lord by obligation, and Craksheld is dead for thought." Will take the letter to Mr. William though it cost him fourteen days' labor. Was five weeks riding "to Canterbury, and again I will no longer drive, for in winter I may not ride," &c.

[From the reference to "the 14th year of this King," it is evident that this letter was written after 1474, the 14th year of Edward IV. It may, perhaps, be of the reign of Henry VII. ; in which case it was addressed to the younger John Paston, who was then a knight, his brother being dead, about the year 1500.]

[1] Street-Hall or Straw Hall, in Great Cressingham, was one of the manors which belonged to Judge Paston. In 1451, Blomefield tells us that Walter Paston, clerk, gave it to his brother John. In the reign of Henry VIII. Sir William Paston sold it to Dame Elizabeth Fitzwilliams.—Blomefield, vi. 99.

768.

A.D. 1476, 17 Jan.

Sir John Paston to John Paston.

[From Fenn, ii. 186.]

This letter is not addressed, but must have been intended for the writer's brother John, or else, as Fenn suggests, for his mother, Margaret. Sir John, however, ends by saying, "Within four days I hope to see you;" and it appears by next letter that he was actually with his brother at Norwich within *three* days, whereas he paid no visit to his mother, who seems to have been living, as she had done for some time, at Mauteby. This letter must have been written from Framlingham, whither Sir John had doubtless gone to petition the Duke of Norfolk about Caister.

IYKE it yow to weete, that not in the most happy season ffor me, it is so ffortunyd, that wher as my Lorde off Norffolke, yisterdaye beying in goode heele, thys nyght dyed abowte mydnyght, wherffor it is ffor alle that lovyd hym to doo and helpe nowe that, that maye be to hys honoure, and weell to hys sowele. And it is soo, that thys contre is nott weell purveyd off clothe off golde ffor the coveryng ffor hys bodye and herse; wherffor every man helpyng to hys power, I putte the cowncell off my lorde in cowmffort, that I hoped to gete one ffor that daye, if it weer so that it be nott broken, or putt to other use.

Wherffor please it yow to sende me worde iff it be so, that ye have, or kan kom by the clothe off tyssywe that I bowte ffor our ffaders tombe, and I undretake it shall be saffyd ageyn ffor yowe on hurt at my perell; I deeme herby to gete greet thanke, and greet assystence in tyme to come; and that owther Syme or Mother Brown maye deliver it me to morow by vij. off the clokke.

Item, as ffor other means, I have sente my servaunt Richard Toring to London, whyche I hope shall

brynge me goode tydyngs ageyn, and with in iiij. dayes I hope to see yowe.

Wretyn on Wednysdaye, xvij. daye off Janyver, anno E. iiij^{ti} xv^{o}.

JOHN PASTON, K.

769.

A.D. 1476, 21 Jan.
JOHN PASTON TO MARGARET PASTON.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

This letter is shown by internal evidence to have been written shortly after the Duke of Norfolk's death, which, as we have seen, took place on the 17th January 1476. It was written on a Sunday, and states that Sir John Paston had left Norwich the day before. The letter following, which is of the 23d January, is dated by John Paston, "Tuesday next after your (Sir John's) departing," so that the Sunday on which this was written must certainly have been the 21st.

To my ryght worchepful modyr, Margaret Paston.

AFTYR all dewtes of recomendacyon, pleasyt yow to weet that as yesterday att noon my brodyr Sir John departyd fro Norwyche towardes London; for as now all the sped is with the Kyng for the swerte of the maner of Caster, consyderyng the dyeing seasyd of my Lord of Norffolk. He trustyth to be in thys contre ayen with in x. or xij. dayes. And at hys departyng he seyd to me that ye sent hym woord to selle the clothe of gold, if he myght selle it well, whyche clothe I thynke may be sold, iff ye wyll agre; not withstandyng I wylle make no bargayn for it, tyll ye send me woord of the serteyn some what ye wyll have for it, or ellys ye to have it ayen. Sir Robard Wyngfeld offyrd me yesterday xx. mark for it, but I wot well ye shall have more for it, if ye wyll sell it; wher for, as ye wyll deele in this mater, I prey yow send me woord to morew be tymys, for if thys bargayn be forsakyn, I trow it wyll be longe

er ye kan get an other bargayn to selle it eny thyng aftyr that it is woorthe.

Modyr, in as humbyll wyse as I can, I beseche yow of your blyssyng. I trust fro hense foorthe that we shall have our chyldyr in rest with ought rebwkyng for ther pleying wanton; for it is told me your ostass at Freton hathe gotyn hyr syche a thyng to pley with, that our other chyldyr shall have leve to sporte theym. God send hyr joye of it.

Wretyn at Norwyche, thys Sonday.

Your sone and humbyll servaunt,

JOHN PASTON.

770.

A.D. 1476, 23 Jan.
JOHN PASTON TO SIR JOHN PASTON.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

To Sir John Paston, Knyght, at the George, at Powlys Wharffe.

AFTYR all dewtes of recomendacyon, lyeketh yow to weet that I ensuer yow your sendyng to Caster is evyll takyn among my lordes folkes, in so myche that some sey that ye tendryd lytyll my lordes dethe, in as myche as ye wold so sone entre upon hym aftyr hys dyssease, with ought avyse and assent of my lordes consayll; wherfor it is thought here by syche as be your frendes in my lordes house that if my lady have onys the graunt of the wardshepp of the chyld,[1] that she wyll ocupye Caster with other londes, and ley the defaute on your unkynd hastyness of entre with ought hyr assent. Wherfor in eny wyse get yow a patent of the Kyng ensealyd be for hyrs, and ye may by eny meane possybyll.

[1] This child was Ann, who soon after was betrothed to Richard Plantagenet, Duke of York, the second son of King Edward. She died very young, and the Duke was, as it is supposed, smothered in the Tower by the command of his uncle Richard III.—F

Also I prey yow comon with my Lord Chamberleyn for me, and weet hough that he wyll have me demeanyd.

It iss told me for serteyn that ther is none hey to gete at Caleys; wherfor if I mygh be pardond for eny kepyng of horse at Caleys till Myd somer, it wer a good torne.

The berer herof shall come home ayen fro London with in a day aftyr that he comyth thedyr, if ye wyll ought comand hym. I prey yow send me woord by hym hough ye do with your maters, and I prey yow in eny wyse lete me undyrstand, by the berer heroff, hough Bowen of the Cheker wyll dele with me; vj^{xx} and x*li.* it is nough, and I wold have vij^{xx}*li.* and x*li.* and I to plege it ought in iiij. or v. yer, or ellys to forfet the maner.

Wretyn at Norwyche, the Twysday next aftyr your departyng thens, xxiij. die Januarii, anno E. iiij^{ti} xv^{o}.

JOHN PASTON.

771.

A.D. 1476, 27 Jan.
SIR JOHN PASTON TO JOHN PASTON.

[From Fenn, ii. 190.]

To John Paston, Esquier, at Norwyche, be thys delyveryd.

Recomaunde me to yow, letyng yow weete that I was infformyd by Ric. Radle, that on Scarlett, that was undrescheryff to Hastyngs,[1] wolde sywe to me on yowr behalff, ffor that ye weer dyspleasyd with a returne off Nichill[2] uppon yow in the seyde Hastyngs tyme; wherffor Ric. Radle

[1] John Hastyngs was Sheriff of Norfolk the preceding year.—F.

[2] Nihils or Nichils, are issues which the sheriff that is apposed in the Exchequer says, are *nothing worth* and illeviable, through the insufficiency of the parties from whom due.—F.

thoghte that the seyde Scarlett wolde be gladde to gyff yow a noble or a riall ffor a sadell to amends, so that ye wolde sease and stoppe the bylle, whyche ye entende to putt into the corte ageyn hys Master Hastyngs.

Wherffor the seyde Scarlett com to me, and prayed me to helpe in the same, and so I have don my devoir to ffeele off hym the most that he can ffynde in hys stomake to depart with to please yow; and in conclusyon I trowe, he shall gyff yow a doblett clothe off sylke, price xx*s.* or therabout; whyche uppon suche answeer as I heer ffrom yowe, I deme that Bysshop the atornye shall, iff I conclude with hym on yowr behalve, paye in mony or otherwyse, to whom that ye woll assynge heer.

I shall by the means of Raddele weet at whoys sywte it was takyn owte; I deme it som thynge doon by craffte, by the means off them that have entresse in your lond, to th'entent to noyse itt therys, or to make yow past shame off the sellyng theroff.

Item, I have receyvyd a letter ffrom yowe wretyn on Tywesdaye last.

Item, wher that som towards my Lady of Norffolk noyse that I dyd onkyndely to sende so hastely to Caster as I dyd; there is no dyscrete person that so thynkyth, ffor iff my lorde hade ben as kynde to me as he myght have ben, and acordyng to suche hert and servyce as my grauntffadr, my ffadr, yowr selff, and I, have owght and doon to my Lords of Norffolk that ded ben, and yitt iff I hadde weddyd hys dowghtr, yitt most I have doon as I dydde.

And moor ovyr, iff I had hadde any demyng off my lordys dethe iiij. howrs or he dyed, I most neds, but iff I wolde be knowyn a ffoole, have entryd it the howr byffor hys dycesse; but in effecte, theygh that in that mater have alweys ment onkyndely to me, they ffeyne that rumor ageyn me; but ther is noon that ment truly to hym that dede is, that wolde be sory that I hadde itt, and in especiall suche as love hys sowle.

Item, wher it is demyd that my lady wolde herafftr

be the rather myn hevy lady ffor that delyng, I thynke that she is to resonable so to be, ffor I did it nott onwyst to hyr councell; there was no man thoght that I sholde doo otherwysse; an as to seye, that I myght have hadde my ladyes advyce or lyve [*leave*], I myght have teryed yitt, or I cowde have speken with hyr, or yitt have hadde any body to have mevyd hyr there on my behalve, as ye wote I dydde what I cowde. Moreovyr I taryed by the advyce off Sir Robert Wyngffelde iij. dayes there, ffor that he putte me in comffirt that the Lord Howard,[1] and hys brother Sir John, sholde have comen to Norwyche, att whoys comyng he dowtyd nott but that I sholde have a goode dyrection takyn ffor me in that mater, they leyhe to me onkyndenesse ffor ovyrkyndenesse.

Item, as ffor my mater heer, itt was thys daye beffoor alle the lordes off the councelle, and amonge them all, it was nott thowght, that in my sendyng off Whetley thyddr, in mediately afftr the dycesse off the Duke, that I dalt onkyndly or onfyttyngly, but that I was moor onresonably dalte with; wherffor, late men deme what they wylle, grettest clerkys are nott alweye wysest men; but I hope hastely to have on weye in it or other.

Item, I wende [*expected*] to have ffownde a gowne off myn heer, but it come home the same daye that I come owte, browght by Herry Berker, loder [*carrier*]. I wolde in alle hast possible have that same gowne off puke ffurryd with whyght lambe.

Item, I wolde have my longe russett gowne off the Frenshe russett in alle hast, ffor I have no gowne to goo in here.

Item, I praye yow recomande me to my moodr, and lat us alle prey God sende my Lady off Norffolk a soone, for uppon that restythe moche mater; ffor if the Kyngys soone[2] mary my lords dowghtr, the Kynge

[1] Afterwards Duke of Norfolk.— F.

[2] Richard, Duke of York, second son of King Edward IV., in or before January 1478, married Anne, sole daughter and heir of John Mowbray, late Duke of Norfolk.—Rolls of Parliament VI, 168. She was at that time only in her sixth year, and she died early.

wolde that hys soone sholde have a ffayr place in Norffolk, thowhe he sholde gyffe me ij. tymes the valywe in other londe, as I am doon to weete. I praye yow sende me worde off my ladyes spede as soone as ye kan.

Item, as ffor Bowen I shall ffele hym, and sholde have doon, thowghe ye hadde nott sente.

Item, ther is offryd me a goode marriage for my suster Anne Skypwithys sone and heyr off Lynkolneshyre, a man v. or vj. mrke by year. No mor.

Wretyn at London, the xxvij. daye off Janyver, anno E. iiij^{ti} xv^{o}.

Item, my Lady off Excester[1] is ded, and it was seyde that bothe the olde Dywchesse off Norffolk,[2] and the Cowntesse off Oxenfforde[3] weer ded, but it is nott soo yitt.

Item, I shall remembr Caleyse bothe for horse and alle, &c.

772.

A.D. 1476, 3 Feb.
John Paston to Sir John Paston.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

To Sir John Paston, Knyght, at the George, by Powys Wharf, in London.

AFTYR all dwtes of recomendacyon, lyeketh yow to wete, that with in thys owyr past, I receyd your letter wretyn the xxvij. day of Januar, by whyche I undyrstand that Scarlet

[1] Anne, daughter of Richard, Duke of York, sister of Edward IV., and widow of Henry Holland, the last Duke of Exeter, her first husband; she died 14th of January 1475, and lies buried with Sir Thomas Saint Leger, Knight, her second husband, in a private chapel at Windsor.—F.

[2] Ellenor, only daughter of William Bourchier, Earl of Ewe, in Normandy, and widow of John Mowbray, Duke of Norfolk.—F.

[3] Margaret, daughter of Richard Nevile, Earl of Salisbury, and wife of John de Vere, Earl of Oxford, now a prisoner in the Castle of Hammes, in Picardy: or it may refer to Elizabeth, widow of the late Earl of Oxford, and daughter and heir of Sir John Howard, Knight.—F.

wold have an end with me; but lesse then xl*s.* is to lytyll, for iff I wold do the uttermost to hym, I shold recover by the statwte, I trow xl*li.* or more, but lesse then xxxiij*s.* iiij*d.* I wyll in no wyse; and ye may sey that ye of your owne hed wyll geve hym tl e ode nobyll of xl*s.*, and if ye have the v. noblys I prey yow let Parker of Flett stret have therof xxx*s.* and lete Pytte and Rychard and Edward drynk the xl*d.* As for your gownys, they shalbe sent yow in as hasty wyse as is possybyll. Thys must be consayll:—It is promysyd my lady by my Lord Chamberleyn that the *diem clausit extremum* for my lord shall not be delyverd tyll she be of power to labore hyr sylff her most avauntage in that mater, wherfor ye ned not to dele ov r largely with thexchetoures. Also consayll:—Robard Brandon and Colevyle have by meanys enformyd my lady that ye wold have gotyn Caster fro hyr by stronge hand, now thys frost whyll the mote is frosyn, in so r yche that she was porposed to have sent thedyr R. Brandon and other to have kept the place tyll syche tyme as she made axe me the questyon whedyr ye entendet that wey or not, and I avysed hyr that she shold rather sofyr R. Brandon and hys retenew to lye in Norwyche of hys owne cost then to lye at the taverne at Yermouthe on hyr cost, for I lete hyr have knowlage that ye never entendyd non entre in to that place, but by hyr assent and knowlage I wast well. Syr, for Godes sake, in as hasty wyse as is possybyll, send me woord how ye feele my Lord Chamberleyn and Bowen dysposed to me wardes, for I shall never be in hertes ease tyll I undyrstand ther tweys dysposysyon. Also, I prey yow, let Symond Dame have knowlage as soone as ye have red thys lettyr that I wold in eny wyse that he swe forthe the axions a yenst Darby and other for Byskley, notwithstandyng the bylle that I sent hym to the contrary by Edmund Jeney, for Darby and I are brokyn of, of our entrete whyche was apoyntyd at Thettford. God sped yow in thes maters, and in all other. Ye send me woord of a good maryage for my syster Anne. I

prey yow aspye some old thryffty draff wyff in London for me. Thomas Brampton at the Blak Fryers in London wyth syche other as he and I apoyntyd wyll helpe yow to aspye on for me on ther part. I prey yow that I may be recomandyd to hym, and prey hym that he wyll, in as hasty wyse as he can, comforte me with on letter fro hym, and fro the other persone that he and I comond of, and I prey yow as ye se hym at the parvyse[1] and ellys where, calle on hym for the same letter and telle hym that ye most nedys have on to me, and when ye have it breke it and ye lyst or ye send it me.

Endorsed—iij. Februarij, anno xv°.

773.

A.D. 1476, 2 March.
John Paston to Lord Hastings.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

Although the lord to whom this letter was addressed is not named, it was undoubtedly intended for Lord Hastings, Lieutenant of Calais, who, as will be seen hereafter, was preparing to go over to Calais in March 1476.—*See* No. 775.

To my Lord.

MY most doughtyd and singuler good lord, aftyr most humble and dew recomendacyon, please it your good lordshepp to have knowlage that, accordyng to your comandement, in my wey homeward, I remembred me of a persone whyche to my thynkyng is meetly to be clerk of your kechyn, whyche persone is now in servyse with Master Fitzwater, and was befor that with Whethyll at Gwynes, and purveyor for hys house, and at syche tyme as the Kynges grace was ther last in hys vyage towardes France. Thys man is meane of stature, yonge inough, well wittyd, well manerd, a goodly yong man on horse

[1] The church porch. In London it commonly meant the portico of St Paul's Cathedral, which is doubtless the place here intended.

and foote. He is well spokyn in Inglyshe, metly well in Frenshe, and verry perfite in Flemyshe. He can wryght and reed. Hys name is Rychard Stratton; hys modyr is Mastress Grame of Caleys. And when I had shewyd hym myn intent, he was agreable and verry glad if that it myght please your lordshepp to accept hym in to your servyse; wherto I promysed hym my poore helpe, as ferforthe as I durst meve your good lordshepp for hym, trustyng that I shold have knowelage of your plesure her in, or I departed towardes your lordshep ought of this contrey. Wherfor I advysed hym to be redy with in xiiij. dayes of Marche at the ferthest, that if it pleasyd your lordsheppe to accept hym or to have a syght of hym be for your departyng to Caleys, that ther shold be no slaughthe in hym.

He desyred me to meve Master Fitzwater to be good mastyr to hym in thys behalve, and so I dyd; and he was verry glad and agreable ther to, seying if hys sone had ben of age, and all the servauntis he hathe myght be in eny wyse acceptabell to your lordshepp, that they all, and hym silff in lyek wyse, shall be at your comandment, whyll he leveth.

And at my comyng home to my poore house, I sent for Robart Bernard, and shewid on to hym that I had mevyd your lordshepp for hym; and he in lyek forme is agreable to be redy by the xiiij. day of Marche to awayte on your lordshepp, be it to Caleys or ellys where, and fro that day so foorthe for ever, whyll hys lyff wyll last, with ought grugeing or contraying your comandement and plesure, in eny wyse that is in hym possibyll t'accomplishe.

I shewed on to hym that I had preyed Master Talbot to be a mean to your good lordshepp for hym, and if so wer that Mastyr Talbot thought that your lordshepp wer content to take hys servyse, then that it wold please Mr. Talbot to meve my Lady of Norffolkes grace to wryght or send to Bernard, puttyng hym in knowlage that hyr grace is content that he shall

become your menyall servaunt. Wherof he was passyng well pleasyd; but, that notwithstandyng, as I enformed your lordshepp, he is not so reteyned, neyther by fee nor promess, but that he may let hym sylff loose to do your lordsheppe servyse when ye wyll receyve hym, and so wyll he do; but, your lordshepe so pleasid, leve wer bettyr. Rychard Stratton told me that whyll he was in servyse with Whethyll, John Redwe mocyond hym onys myche aftyr thys intent, but at that tyme Whethyll wold not be so good mastyr to hym as to meve your lordshepe for hym.

My lord, I trust that your lordshepe shall lyek bothe ther persones and ther condicyons; and as for ther trowthes, if it may please your good lordshepe to accept my poore woord with thers, I wyll depose largely for that. And as it pleasyth your good lordshepe to comand me in thes maters, and all other, if it may please your lordshepe to shewe the same to my brodyr Nessfeld, he knowith who shall sonest be with me to putt me in knowlage of your plesure, whyche I shall be at all seasons redy t'accomplyshe to my poore power, with Godes grace, Whom I beseche longe to contenue the prosperous astate of your good lordshepp.

Fro Norwyche, the seconde daye of Marche, with the hand of your most humble servaunt and beedman,

JOHN PASTON.

774.

A.D. 1476?

JOHN PASTON TO [MARGERY BREWS].

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

This letter is printed from a draft in the hand of John Paston the younger. I suppose it must have been written about the year 1476, and intended for Margery Brews, whom he afterwards married. It will be seen that Richard Stratton, whom in his last letter he recommended to Lord Hastings, is here the bearer of a confidential message to the lady.

MASTRESSE, thow so be that I, unaqweyntyd with yow as yet, tak up on me to be thus bold as to wryght on to yow with ought your knowlage and leve, yet, mastress, for syche pore servyse as I now in my mynd owe yow, purposyng, ye not dyspleasyd, duryng my lyff to contenu the same, I beseche yow to pardon my boldness, and not to dysdeyn, but to accepte thys sympyll byll to recomand me to yow in syche wyse as I best can or may imagyn to your most plesure. And, mastress, for sych report as I have herd of yow by many and dyverse persones, and specyally by my ryght trusty frend, Rychard Stratton, berer her of, to whom I beseche yow to geve credence in syche maters as he shall on my behalve comon with yow of, if it lyke you to lystyn hym, and that report causythe me to be the more bold to wryght on to yow, so as I do; for I have herd oft tymys Rychard Stratton sey that ye can and wyll take every thyng well that is well ment, whom I beleve and trust as myche as fewe men leveing, I ensuer yow by my trowthe. And, mastress, I beseche yow to thynk non other wyse in me but that I wyll and shall at all seasons be redy wythe Godes grace to accomplyshe all syche thynges as I have enformyd and desyerd the seyd Rychard on my behalve to geve yow knowlage of, but if [*unless*] it so be that a geyn my wyll it come of yow that I be cast off fro yowr servyse and not wyllyngly by my desert, and that I am and wylbe yours and at your comandmen in every wyse dwryng my lyff. Her I send yow thys bylle wretyn with my lewd hand and sealyd with my sygnet to remayn with yow for a wyttnesse ayenste me, and to my shame and dyshonour if I contrary it. And, mastress, I beseche yow, in easyng of the poore hert that somtyme was at my rewle, whyche now is at yours, that in as short tyme as can be that I may have knowlage of your entent and hough ye wyll have me demeanyd in thys mater, and I wylbe at all seasons redy to performe in thys mater and all others your plesure, as ferforth as lythe in my poore power

to do or in all thers that ought wyll do for me, with Godes grace, Whom I beseche to send yow the accomplyshement of your most worchepfull desyers, myn owne fayer lady, for I wyll no ferther labore but to yow, on to the tyme ye geve me leve, and tyll I be suer that ye shall take no dysplesur with my ferther labore.

775.

A.D. 1476, 12 March.
Sir John Paston to John Paston.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

To John Paston, Esquier, or to Mestresse Margrett Paston, hys moodre, in Norffolk.

I Recomande me to yow, letyng yow wete that, blessyd be God, uppon Saterdaye last past my lorde[1] and wee toke the see, and come to Caleyes the same daye, and as thys daye my lorde come to Guynesse, and theer was receyvyd honourablye with owt any obstaklys; wheer as I fownde Master Fytzwalter and othre, whyche wer ryght hevye for the dethe of the noble man thatt was theer to foor, itt happyd soo that my seyd Master Fytzwalter axid me ryght hertely for yow, and I lete hym weete that I demyd ye wolde be heer in haste, wheroffe he seyde he was ryght soory, for soo moche that he entendyth to come in to Englonde, and as I conceyve he wyll come to Attylborogh, and brynge my mestresse hys wyffe with hym, and theer to stablysshe hys howse contynuall. Wherffor he thynketh that he sholde have as grete a lakke off yow as off any one man in that contre, willyng me to wryght on to yowe, and to late yow weete off hys comynge. He also hathe tolde me moche off hys stomake and tendre faver that he owythe to yow; wherffor I asserteyn yow that he is your verry

[1] Hastings.

especiall goode master, and iffe ye weer abydynge in thatt contre, whylse he weer theer, he is dysposyd to doo largely for yowe in dyverse wyse, whyche weer to longe to wryght, in so moche that I feele by hym that he thynkyth that itt sholde be longe er he scholde be wery of yowr expences of horse or man. Now I remytte alle thynge to your dyscresion; ye woote best what is for yow.

As for my lorde, I undrestande nott yitt whethyr he wylle in to Ingelonde the weke to foor Esterne, or ellys aftre.

I pray yow recomande me to my moodre. I wolde have wretyn to hyr, but in trowthe I ame somewhatt crased, what with the see and what wythe thys dyet heer.

No moor to yow, but wretyn at Gynes, the xij. daye off Marche, anno E. xvj.

By JOHN PASTON, K.

776.

A.D. 1476, 21 March.
SIR JOHN PASTON TO MARGARET PASTON.

[From Fenn, ii. 198.]

To Mestresse Margrete Paston, at Norwyche, or hyr sone, John Paston, Esquyer, and to everych off them.

IRecomande me to yowe. Like it yow to weete that I am nott sertayne yitt whether my lorde[1] and I shall come into Ingelonde the weke byffoor Est[er]ne, or ellys the weke afftr Est[er]ne; wherffor, moodr, I beseche yow to take noo dysplesyr with me ffor my longe tarynge, ffor I most doo noon otherwyse ffor dysplesyng off my lorde. I was noo thynge gladde off thys jornaye, iff I myght goodely have chosen; neverthelesse, savyng that ye have cawse to be dyspleasyd with me ffor the mater off Kokett, I

[1] Hastings.

am ellys ryght gladde, ffor I hope that I ame fferre moor in ffavor with my lorde then I was to ffoor.

Item, I sende yow, brother John, a letter herwith, whyche was browte hyddr to Caleys, ffrom the George at Powles Wharff; I deme it comethe ffrom my brother Water.

Item, iff ye entende hyddrewarde, itt weer weell doon that ye hygthed yowe, ffor I suppose that my lorde wille take the vywe off alle hys retynywe heer, nowe byffoor hys departyng; and I thynke that he woolde be better contente with yowr comyng nowe, than an other tyme; doo as ye thynke best, and as ye maye.

Item, wher Master Fytzwalter made me to wryght to yowe to advyse yow to tarye, I remytte thatt to yowr dyscretion.

As ffor tydyngs heer, we her ffrom alle the worlde; ffyrst, the Lorde Ryverse was at Roome right weell and honorably, and other Lords off Ynglonde, as the Lord Hurmonde,[1] and the Lord Scrope,[2] and at ther departyng xij. myle on thysehalff Roome, the Lorde Ryverse was robbyd off alle hys jowelles and plate, whyche was worthe m^le. marke or better, and is retornyd to Rome ffor a remedy.

Item, the Duke of Burgoyne hath conqueryd Loreyn, and Quene Margreet shall nott nowe be lykelyhod have it; wherffor the Frenshe Kynge cherysseth hyr butt easelye; but afftr thys conquest off Loreyn, the Duke toke grete corage to goo uppon the londe off the Swechys [*Swiss*] to conquer them, butt the [*they*] berded hym att an onsett place, and hathe dystrussyd hym, and hathe slayne the most parte off hys vanwarde, and wonne all hys ordynaunce and artylrye, and mor ovyr all stuffe thatt he hade in hys ost with hym; exceppte men and horse that ffledde nott, but they roode that nyght xx. myle; and so the ryche saletts,[3] heulmetts, garters, nowchys[4] gelt, and alle is goone, with tents, pavylons,

[1] John, sixth Earl of Ormond. [2] John, Lord Scrope of Bolton.
[3] Light head-pieces. F. [4] Embossed ornaments, chains, buckles, &c.—F.

and alle, and soo men deme hys pryde is abatyd. Men tolde hym that they weer ffrowarde karlys, butte he wolde nott beleve it, and yitt men seye, that he woll to them ageyn. Gode spede them bothe.

Item, Sir John Mydelton toke leve off the Duke to sporte hym, but he is sett in pryson att Brussellys.

I praye yowe sende me som worde iff ye thynke likly that I may entr Caster when I woll, by the next messenger.

Wretyn at Caleys, in resonable helthe off bodye and sowle, I thanke Good, the xxj. daye off Marche, anno E. iiij^{ti} xvj^{o}. J. P., K.

777.

A.D. 1476, 6 May.
John Paston to Sir John Paston.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

To the ryght worchepfull Sir John Paston, Knyght, lodgyd at the George, by Powlys Wharf, in London.

AFTYR all dewtes of recomendacyon, lyeketh yow to wet, that to my power ye be welcom ayen in to Inglond. And as for the Castell of Shene, ther is no mor in it but Colle and hys mak, and a goose may get it; but in no wyse I wold not that wey, and my modyr thynkyth the same. Take not that wey, if ther be eny other.

I undyrstand that Mastres Fytzwater hathe a syster, a mayd, to mary. I trow, and ye entretyd hym, she myght come into Crysten menys handys. I prey yow spek with Mastyr Fytzwater of that mater for me, and ye may telle hym, synse that he wyll have my servyse, it wer as good, and syche a bargayn myght be mad, that bothe she and I awaytyd on hym and my mastress hys wyff at oure owne cost, as I a lone to awayt on hym at hys cost; for then he shold be swer that I

shold not be flyttyng, and I had syche a qwarell to kepe me at home. And I have hys good wylle, it is non inpossybyll to bryng a bowght.

I thynk to be at London with in a xiiij. dayes at the ferthest, and peraventure my mastress also, in consayll be it clatryd. God kepe yow and yours.

At Norwyche, the vj. day of May, anno E. iiij^{ti} xvj^{o}.

J. P.

778.

A.D. 1476, 27 May.
Sir John Paston to Margaret Paston.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

This letter relates to Sir John Paston's claim to Caister after the Duke of Norfolk's death, which claim he succeeded in establishing in June 1476, as appears by the letter following. The date 26th May at the end of the letter is an error, as "Monday next Holy Thursday" was the 27th.

To Mestresse Margret Paston, in Norwyche, or to hyr sone John Paston, Knyght.

PLEASE it yow to weete that as for my materes, and theye appeyre nott,[1] the doo, blessyd be Godde, as weell as I wolde they dyd, saffe that it shalle cost me grett mony, and it hathe cost me moche laboor. It is soo that the Kynge most have C. marke, and other costes will drawe xl. marke. And my mater is examynyd by the Kynges Cowncell, and declaryd affoor alle the Lordes, and now lakkythe noo thynge but [the Pry]vy Seals, and wryghtyng to Master Colv[ill][2] to avoide; for the [2][Kyng hath p]romysed me as moche as I wolde he sholde fullefille, and alle the Lordes, Juges, Serjauntes, have affermyd my title goode. Nott withstandyng Sowthewell, James Hubberde, and Sir W. Braundon, where at ther owne desyrs, offryd to afferme and advowe my tytell for goode, and that my Lorde off Norffolk that ded is had noo tytell, thatt they knywe, they tolde my tale as ille

[1] *i.e.* if they do not get worse.

[2] Paper decayed.

as they cowde, and yitt a lye or too to helpe it, and yit it servyth them nott, they be knowen as they ar (in Cowncell be it seyde, and so most all thys letter be).

I have moche payne to gete so moche mony. Nevertheless, but iff myne oncle schewe hym selfe werse than ever he was, I shalle nott fayle, if he kepe me promyse, and thatt is but as he dyde last, that is butt to be my sywerte, and I to make hym sywerte ageyn.

The Kynge departythe thys daye, and wille nott be heer tyll Frydaye, whyche lettyth me, or ellys by thatt daye I wolde have hopyd to have comen homeward, and erst per aventure. No moor, but Jesus have yow in kepyng.

Wretyn at London, the xxvj. daye of Maye, the Mondaye next Holy Thurrysdaye, the Assencion.

The Kynge wold have bowte it, but he was enformyd off the trowthe, and that it was nott for a prynce, and off the greet pryse that I wolde selle it att; for that I I myght nott for bere it, for he scholde have payed $m^{l}.m^{l}$ marke or moor, iff he hadde hadde it.

Your sone, J. Paston, K.

779.

A.D. 1476, 30 June.
Sir John Paston to John Paston.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

To John Paston, Esquier, beyng at the Syngne of the George, at Powles Wharffe.

I Recomaunde me to yow, letyng yow weete that I hav receyvyd yowr letter, wretyn the next daye aftre Mydsomer; for answer wheroff I thynke that to be bownde in v^c^. [500] marke,

I thynke it is to moche, where as I felt by yow ye sholde have with the gentylwoman but iiij^{c} [400]; nevertheless I agree. But ye shall undrestande that I wyll not be bownde for yow that ye shall make hyr joyntour past xx*li.* by yer, within a sertayne daye lymyted; be it j. yere or ij., that is the largest that ye maye performe. For as for the maner of Sparham, my moodre and ye acorde notte in yowr saynges; she wyll nowght graunte yow ther in, whylse she levyth, saff, as she seythe to me, she hathe grauntyd yow x. marke by yeer tyll xl*li.* be payed, that is but vj. yeer; and aftre hyr dyscease she woll agree with goode will, so that it maye be yowr proferment, that ye sholde have that maner in joynture with yowr wyffe to the lenger lyver off yow bothe, payng x. marke by yeer, soo or th . . . as she wyll that it shall be. Therfore, as for l. marke joynture, I pray yow bynde me in no suche clawse, butt iff it be for xx*li.* by a resonable daye, and xx. marke aftre the dyssease off my moodre. Take example at Derby.

Item, ye make yow sywerer than I deme yow bee, for I deme that her frendes wyll nott be content with Bedyngfeldes sywerte, nor yowres. I deme thys mater will ocopy lenger leyser than ye deme for.

Item, I remembre thatt thys mony that she sholde have is nott redy, but in the handes of marchauntes of the Estaple, whyche at a prove ye shall fynde per case so slakke payeres, that ye myght be deseyvyd ther by. I knowe dyverse have lost mony er they cowde gete ther dywtes owte off the Staple. God spede yow, and sende yow that ye wolde have.

I sende yow the obligacion here with acordyng to yowr desyr, and a letter to Bedyngfelde, thankyng hym for yow, and more over letyng hym know of myn entent. Opyn it, and close it ageyn, if ye lyst.

Item, where I tolde yow that the gowne clothe off olde chamlott, I wolde have it hoome for my suster Anne; ye for gate it. I praye yow sende it home by the next massenger, and a letter with it of suche tydynges as ye knowe.

Item, blissed be God, I have Castre at my will. God holde it better than it doone her to foore.

No moore, but wretyn the next daye aftre Seynt Petre, anno E. iiij^{ti} xvj^{o}. J. Paston, K.

780.

A.D. 1476 or 1477.
Dame Elizabeth Brews to John Paston.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

This is the first of a series of letters, some of which were certainly written in February 1477, relating to the engagement of John Paston to Margery Brews. How early they began it is not easy to say precisely. On the back of this letter is written, apparently in the hand of John Paston, to whom it is addressed, "Letræ dominæ Elyzabethæ Brews et Margariæ filæ (*sic*) ejus."

To my wurschypfull cosyn, John Paston, be thys bill delyvered, &c.

RYGHT wurschypfull cosyn, I recommande me un to yowe, thankyng zowe hertely for the grette chere that ze made me the last tyme that ze were with me at Norwych, &c.

And, cosyn, as for the mater that was put in my nowncle Hastynges and Henry Heydon, I ondyrstand be myn uncle, that ther was made non ende therin, whech I am ryght sory for. Cosyn, ze be remembred what ze promysed me that, and so were that myn uncle and Herry Heydon made none ende therin, that ze wold put the mater in me; and if it please zowe so for to do, in good faith, cosyn, I schall goo as wele and as ryghtfully and consciensly as I can for both the partyes. And, cosyn, if it please zowe to com to Topcroft, and poynt ze what dey when ze will com, I schall sende for my cosyn to be ther the same day. And, cosyn, I pray zowe to sende me worde agayn be the brynger of thys letter, howe ze will do, &c.

And Almyghty Jesus hafe zowe in kepyng, &c.

Be zour cosyn,

Dame Elizabeth Brews.

781.

Dame Elizabeth Brews to John Paston.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

See preliminary note to last letter.

Un to my ryght wurschypffull cosyn, John Paston, be thys lettur delyvered, &c.

RYGHT wurschypfull cosyn, I recommande me un [to] yowe, &c. And I send my husbonde a bill of the mater that ze knowe of, and he wrote an other bill to me agayn towchyng the same mater; and he wold that ze schuld go un to my maistresse yowr modur, and asaye if ze myght gete the hole xx*li.* in to zowr handes, and then he wolde be more gladd to marye with zowe, and will gyffe zowe an C*li.* And, cosyn, that day that sche is maryed, my fadur will gyffe hyr l. merk. But and we acorde, I schall gyffe yowe a grettere tresur, that is, a wytty gentylwoman, and if I sey it, bothe good and vertuos; for if I schuld take money for hyr, I wold not gyffe hyr for a m*li.* But, cosyn, I trust zowe so meche that I wold thynke her wele besett on zowe, and ze were worthe meche more. And, cosyn, a lytyll after that ze were gone, come a man fro my cosyn Derby, and broght me wurde that suche a chance fell that he myght not come at the day that was set, as I schall let zowe undyrstond more pleynly, when I speke with zowe, &c. But, cosyn, and it wold please zowe to come agayn what dey that ze will set, I dare undyrtake that they schall kepe the same day; for I wold be glad that, and myn husbond and ze myght acorde in thys maryage, that it myght be my fortune to make and ende in thys mater betwene my cosyns and zowe, that yche of zowe myght love other in frendely wyse, &c. And, cosyn, if thys byll please not zowr entent, I pray zowe that it may be brent, &c.

No more unto yowe at thys tyme, but Almyghty Jesus preserve zowe, &c.

By zowr cosyn,
Dame ELIZABETH BREWS.

782.

A.D. 1477, Feb.

DAME ELIZABETH BREWS TO JOHN PASTON.

[From Fenn, ii. 208.]

It is clear from internal evidence that this letter was written between the 7th and the 12th of February, and the fact that St. Valentine's Day (the 14th) fell on Friday, proves the year to have been 1477. Besides which, we have distinct references to the matter further on in the dated correspondence.

To my wurschypfull cosyne, John Paston, be this bill delyveryd, &c.

COSYN, I recomande me un to yowe, thankyng yowe hertely for the grette chere that ye made me and all my folkys, the last tyme that I was at Norwych; and ye promysyd me, that ye wold never breke the mater to Margrery unto suche tyme as ye and I were at a point. But ye hafe made hyr suche advokett for yowe, that I may never hafe rest nyght ner day, for callyng and cryeng uppon to brynge the saide mater to effecte, &c.

And, cosyn, uppon Fryday is Sent Volentynes Day, and every brydde chesyth hym a make [*mate*]; and yf it lyke yowe to come one Thursday at nyght, and so purvey yowe, that ye may abyde there tyll Monday, I trusty to God, that ye schall so speke to myn husband; and I schall prey that we schall bryng the mater to a conclusyon, &c. For, cosyn,

It is but a sympill oke,
That [is] cut down at the first stroke.

For ye will be resonabill, I trust to God, Whech hafe yowe ever in Hys mercyfull kepyng, &c.

Be yowr cosyn, Dame ELIZABETH BREWS,
otherwes schall be called be Godds grace.

783.

A.D. 1477, Feb.
Margery Brews to John Paston.

[From Fenn, ii. 210.]

Unto my ryght welebelovyd Voluntyn, John Paston, Squyer, be this bill delyvered, &c.

RYGHT reverent and wurschypfull, and my ryght welebeloved Voluntyne, I recomande me unto yowe, ffull hertely desyring to here of yowr welefare, whech I beseche Almyghty God long for to preserve un to Hys plesur, and yowr herts desyre. And yf it please yowe to here of my welefar, I am not in good heele of body, nor of herte, nor schall be tyll I her ffrom yowe;

> For there wottys no creature what peyn that I endure,
> And for to be deede, I dare it not dyscure [*discover*].

And my lady my moder hath labored the mater to my ffadur full delygently, but sche can no mor gete then ye knowe of, for the whech God knowyth I am full sory. But yf that ye loffe me, as I tryste verely that ye do, ye will not leffe me therefor; for if that ye hade not halfe the lyvelode that ye hafe, for to do the grettest labur that any woman on lyve myght, I wold not forsake yowe.

> And yf ye commande me to kepe me true wherever I go,
> I wyse I will do all my myght yowe to love and never no mo.
> And yf my freends say, that I do amys,
> Thei schal not me let so for to do,
> Myne herte me bydds ever more to love yowe
> Truly over all erthely thing,
> And yf thei be never so wroth,
> I tryst it schall be better in tyme commyng.

No more to yowe at this tyme, but the Holy Trinite hafe yowe in kepyng. And I besech yowe that this bill

be not seyn of none erthely creatur safe only your selffe, &c.

And thys letter was indyte at Topcroft, with full hevy herte, &c.

By your own,

MARGERY BREWS.

784.

A.D. 1477, Feb.
MARGERY BREWS TO JOHN PASTON.

[From Fenn, ii. 214.]

To my ryght welebelovyd cosyn, John Paston, Swyer, be this letter delyveryd, &c.

RYGHT wurschypfull and welebelovyd Volentyne, in my moste umble wyse, I recommande me un to yowe, &c. And hertely I thanke yowe for the lettur whech that ye sende me be John Bekarton, wherby I undyrstonde and knowe, that ye be purposyd to come to Topcroft in schorte tyme, and withowte any erand or mater, but only to hafe a conclusyon of the mater betwyx my fader and yowe; I wolde be most glad of any creatur on lyve, so that the mater myght growe to effect. And ther as ye say, and ye come and fynde the mater no more towards you then ye dyd afortyme, ye wold no more put my fader and my lady my moder to no cost ner besenesse, for that cause, a good wyle aftur, weche causyth myne herte to be full hevy; and yf that ye come, and the mater take to none effecte, then schuld I be meche mor sory and full of hevynesse.

And as for my selfe, I hafe done and undyrstond in the mater that I can or may, as Good knowyth; and I let yowe pleynly undyrstond, that my fader wyll no mor money parte with all in that behalfe, but an C*li.* and l. marke, whech is ryght far fro the acomplyshment of yowr desyre.

Wherfore, yf that ye cowde be content with that good, and my por persone, I wold be the meryest maydien on grounde; and yf ye thynke not yowr selffe so satysfyed, or that ye myght hafe mech mor good, as I hafe undyrstonde be yowe afor; good, trewe, and lovyng volentyne, that ye take no such labur uppon yowe, as to come more for that mater, but let is [*it*?] passe, and never more to be spokyn of, as I may be yowr trewe lover and bedewoman duryng my lyfe.

No more un to yowe at thys tyme, but Almyghty Jesus preserve yowe, bothe body and sowle, &c.

Be your Voluntyne,

MARGERY BREWS.

785.

A.D. 1477, Feb.

THOMAS KELA TO JOHN PASTON.

[From Fenn, ii. 216.]

Un to my ryght wurschypfull maister, John Paston, Swhyer, be this bill delivered, &c.

RYGHT wurschypfull sir, I recomande me un to yowe, lettyng yowe knowe, as for the yonge gentylwoman, sche owyth yowe hyr good herte and love, as I knowe be the comynicacion that I hafe hade with hyr for the same.

And, sir, ye knowe what my maister and my lady hath profered with hyr CC. merke. And I dar sey, that hyr chambr and areyment schall be worthe C. merk. And I harde my lady sey, that and the case required, both ye and sche schuld hafe yowr borde with my lady iij. yer aftr.

And I understand by my lady, that sche wold that ye schuld labur the mater to my maister, for it schuld be the bettr.

And I harde my lady sey,

That it was a febill oke,
That was kit down at the first stroke.

And ye be beholdyng un to my lady for hyr good wurde, for sche hath never preysyd yowe to mech.

Sir, lyke as I promysyd yowe, I am yowr man, and my good will ye schall hafe in worde and dede, &c.

And Jesus hafe yowe in Hys mercyfull kepyng, &c.

Be yor man,

THOMAS KELA.

786.

A.D. 1477, 14 Feb.
SIR JOHN PASTON TO JOHN PASTON.

[From Fenn, ii. 204.]

To John Paston, Esquyer, at Norwyche, in hast.

Recomaunde me to yow, letyng yow weete, that yisterdaye beganne the grete cowncell, to whyche alle the astats off the londe shall com to, butt if it be ffor gret and reasonable excusis; and I suppose the cheffe cawse off thys assemble is, to comon what is best to doo, now uppon the greet change by the dethe off the Duke of Burgoyne, and ffor the kepyng off Caleys and the Marchys, and ffor the preservacion off the amyteys taken late, as weell with Fraunce as now with the Membrys off Flaundres; wher to I dowt nott ther shall be in all hast bothe the Duks off Clarance and Glowcestre, wheroff I wolde that my brother E.[1] wyst.

Item, I ffeele butt litell effecte in the labor off W. Alyngton; neverthelesse I deme it is nott for yow. She shall not passe CC. mark, as fferr as I can undrestand aparte.

Item, I will nott fforget yow otherwyse.

Itt is so that thys daye I heer grett liklyhood, that my Lorde Hastyngs shall hastely goo to Caleys with greet company; iff I thynke it be for yow to be on [*one*], I shall nott fforgeet yow.

[1] Edmund Paston, who was in the garrison of Calais.

Item, thys daye the mater by twyen Mestresse Anne Haulte and me hathe been soor broken bothe to the Cardinall,[1] to my Lorde Chamberleyn,[2] and to myselffe, and I am in goode hope. When I heer and knowe moor, I shall sende yow worde.

It semythe that the worlde is alle qwaveryng; it will reboyle somwher, so that I deme yonge men shall be cherysshyd; take yowr hert to yow. I ffeer that I can nott be excusyd, but that I shall fforthe with my Lorde Hastyngs ovyr the see, but I shall sende yow worde in hast, and iff I goo, I hope nott to tary longe.

Item, to my brother Edmond. I am like to speke to Mestresse Dyxon in hast, and som deme that ther shall be condyssendyd, that iff E. P. come to London that hys costs shall be payed ffor.

I shall hastely sende yow worde off moor thyngs.

Wretyn at London, the xiiij. day off Feverer, anno E. iiij^ti xvj. the Fryday a for Fastyngong.

JOHN PASTON, K.

787.

A.D. 1477, 8 March.
JOHN PASTON TO MARGARET PASTON.

[From Fenn, ii. 220.]

This letter evidently refers to a meeting arranged between Margaret Paston and Dame Elizabeth Brews on the subject of John Paston's approaching marriage, which took place in the latter part of the year 1477.

To my ryght worchepfull modyr, Margaret Paston.

RYGHT worschepfull modyr, aftyr all dwtes of recommendacyon, in as humble wyse as I can, I beseche yow of your dayly blyssyng. Modyr, please yt yow to wett, that the cause that Dame Elizabeth Brews desyreth to mete with yow at Norwyche, and not at Langley, as I apoyntyd with

[1] Thomas Bourchier, Archbishop of Canterbury.—F.
[2] William, Lord Hastyngs.—F.

yow at my last being at Mawtby, is by my meanys, for my brodyr Thomas Jermyn, whyche knowyth nought of the mate [*match*], telyth me, that the causey or ye can comme to Bokenham Fery is so over flowyn that ther is no man that may on ethe passe it, though he be ryght well horsyd; whyche is no mete wey for yow to passe over, God defend it. But, all thyngs rekynyd, it shalbe lesse cost to yow to be at Norwyche, as for a day or tweyn, and passe not, then to mete at Langly, wher every thyng is dere; and your horse may be sent home ayen the same Wednysday.

Modyr, I beseche yow for dyvers causys, that my syster Anne may come with yow to Norwyche; modyr, the mater is in a resonable good wey, and I trust with Gods mercy, and with your good help, that it shall take effect bettyr to myn avauntage then I told yow of at Mawtby; for I trow ther is not a kynder woman leveing then I shall have to my modyr in lawe, if the mater take, nor yet a kynder fadyr in lawe then I shall have, though he be hard to me as yett. All the cyrcumstancys of the mater, whyche I trust to tell yow at your comyng to Norwyche, cowd not be wretyn in iij. levys of paper, and ye know my lewd hed well i nough, I may not wryght longe, wherffor I ffery over all thyngs tyll I may awayte on yow my selff. I shall do tonnen[1] in to your place a doseyn ale, and bred acordyng, ayenst Wednysday. If Syme myght be forborn it wer well done, that he war at Norwyche on Wednysday in the mornyng at markett.

Dame Elizabeth Brewse shall lye at Jon Cookys; if it myght please yow, I wold be glad that she myght dyne in your howse on Thursday, for ther shold ye have most secret talkyng. And modyr, at the reverence of God, beware that ye be so purveyd for, that ye take no cold by the wey towards Norwyche, for it is the most peraylous marche that ever was seyn by eny manys dayes that now lyveth; and I prey to Jesu preserve yow and yours.

[1] *i.e.*, cause to be tunned.

Wretyn at Topcroft, the viij. day of Marche.
Your sone and humbyll servaunt,
J. P.

788.

A.D. 1477, 8 March.
Sir Thomas Brews to Sir John Paston.

[From Fenn, ii. 224.]

The date of this letter, as of the last, is fixed by the subject.

To my ryght wurschypfull cosyn, Sir Jhon Paston, Knyght, be this letter delivered, &c.

RYGHT wurschypfull, and my hertely welebelovyd cosyn, I recommande me unto yowe, desyring to here of yowr welefar, whech I pray God may be as contynuall good as I wolde hafe myn own. And, cosyn, the cause of my wryting un to yow, at thys tyme, is, I fele wele be my cosyn John yowr broder, that ye hafe undyrstondyng of a mater, whech is in comynicacyon tochyng a maryage, with Godds grace, to be concluded betwyx my saide cosyn yowr broder, and my doghter Margery, wheche is far commonyd, and not yyt concluded, ner noght schall ner may be tyll I hafe answer from yowe agayn of yowr good will and asent to the seid mater; and also of the obligacyon weche that I sende yowe herewith; for, cosyn, I wold be sory to se owther my cosyn yowr broder, or my doghtr, dryvyn to leve so meane a lyff as thei schuld do yf the vj^{xx}*li.* [£120], schuld be payde of ther maryage money.

And cosyn, I hafe takyn my selfe so nere in levyng of this vj^{xx}*li.*, that wher as I hade layde upp an C*li.* for the maryage of a yonger doghter of myn, I hafe nowe lent the saide C*li.* and xx*li.* over that, to my cosyn yowr broder, to be paide ageyn be suche esy days as the obligacyon, weche I sende yowe herwyth, specy-

fyes. And, cosyn, I were ryght lothe to be stowe so mech uppon one doghter, that the other her susters schuld far the wars; wherfor, cosyn, yf ye wyll that thys mater schall take effect undyr suche forme as my cosyn yowr broder hath wretyn unto yowe, I pray yowe put therto yowr good wylle, and sum of yowr coste, as I hafe done of myn more largely then ever I purpose to do to any tweyn of hyr susters, as God knowyth myn entent, Whom I besech to send yowe yowr levest herts desyr.

Wretyn at Topcroft, the viij. day of March, &c.

Be your cosyn,

THOMAS BREWS, Knight.

789.

A.D. 1477, 9 March.
SIR JOHN PASTON TO JOHN PASTON.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

To John Paston, Esquyer, in haste.

I Have received yowr letter, and yow[r] man, J. Bykerton, by whom I knowe all the mater off Mestresse Brews, whyche iff it be as he seythe, I praye Godde brynge it to a goode ende.

Item, as for thys mater of Mestresse Barly,[1] I holde it but a bare thynge. I feele weell that itt passyth nott . . . marke. I syghe hyr for yowr sake. She is a lytell onys; she maye be a woman heer aftre, iff she be nott olde nowe; hir person semyth xiij. yere off age; hyr yerys, men sey, ben full xviij. She kowyth nott of the mater, I suppose; neverthelesse she desyryd to see me as gladde as I wasse to se hyr.

I praye yow sende me some wryghtyng to Caleys off yowr spede with Mestresse Brewys. Bykerton tellyth

[1] Fenn reads this name Burly, but I think erroneously.

me that she lovyth yow weell. Iff I dyed, I hadde lever ye hadde hyr than the Lady Wargrave; nevertheless she syngeth weell with an harpe.

Clopton is aferde off Sir T. Greye, for he is a wydower now late, and men sey that he is aqueyntyd with hyr of olde.

No more. Wretyn on Sondaye, the ix. daye off Marche, anno E. iiij^{ti} xvij^{o} to Caleys warde.

Iff ye have Mestresse Brews, and E. Paston Mestresse Bylyngford, ye be lyke to be bretheryn.

J. Paston, K.

790.

A.D. 1477, 9 March.
John Paston to Sir John Paston.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

Thys bylle be delyverd to Thomas Grene, good man of the George, by Powlys Wharffe, or to hys wyff, to send to Sir John Paston, wherso evere he be, at Caleys, London, or other placys.

RYGHT worchepfull sir, and my most good and kynde brodyr, in as humbyll wyse as I can, I recomand me to yow. Sir, it is so that I have, sythe John Bekurton departyd fro hens, ben at Toppcrofft at Syr Tohmas Brewse; and as for the mater that I sent yow word of by Jon Bekurton, towchyng my sylff and Mastress Margery Brews, I am yet at no serteynte, hyr fadyr is so hard; but I trow I have the good wyll of my lady hyr modyr and hyr; but as the mater provyth, I shall send yow woord, with Godes grace, in short tyme.

But as for John Bekurton, I prey yow dele with hym for suerte as a soudyor shold be delt with; trust hym never the more for the bylle that I sent yow by

hym, but as a man at wylde, for every thyng that he told me is not trewe; for he departyd with ought lycence of hys mastyr, Syr Thomas Brewse, and is fere endangeryd [*indebted*] to dyvers in thys contrey. I prey God that I wryght not to yow of hym to late; but for all thys I knowe none untrowthe in hym; but yet I prey yow, trust hym not over myche upon my woord.

Syr, Perse Mody [1] recomandyth hym to your mastyrshep, and besecheth yow to send hym word in hast, hough he shall be demeanyd at your place at Caster; for he is asygnyd to no body as yet, to take of mete and drynk, nor yet wher that he shall have money to paye for hys mete and drynk; and now is the cheff replenysheing of your warenn there, the avauntage of the dove howse wer well for hym, tyll ye come hom your sylff.

Sir, I prey yow pardon me of my wryghtyng, hough so ever it be, for carpenters of my crafte that I use now, have not alderbest ther wyttys ther owne. And Jesu preserve yow.

Wretyn at Norwyche, the ix. day of Marche, anno E. iiij^{ti} septimo decymo. J. P.

791.

A.D. 1477.—Sir Thomas Brews.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

This paper was evidently drawn up about the same time as the last letter. It is a draft in John Paston's handwriting, but is evidently written as in the name of Sir Thomas Brews. It is endorsed in a more modern hand:—"A determinacion of Sir Tho. Brews how much he would gyve with his daughter Margery in mariage."

MEMORANDUM.—To let my cosyn, Margaret Paston, ondyrstand that for a jontor to be mad in Sweynsthorp in hand, and for a jontore of no more but x. mark ought of

[1] Perse Moody was a servant of Sir John Paston's, now at Caister.—F.

Sparham, I wylle depart with CC. mark in hand, and to give theym ther boord free as for ij. or iij. yer in serteyn, or ellys CCC. mark with ought ther boord, payable by l. mark yerly tyll the some of CCC. mark be full payed.

Item, I wyll geve CCCC. mark, payable l*li.* in hand at the day of maryage, and l*li.* yerly tyll the some of CCCC. mark be full payed upon thes condycyons folowing.

Wher of on condycyon is thys, that I wyll lend my cosyn John Paston vj^{xx}*li.*, besyd hys maryage money, to pledge ought the maner of Sweynsthorpe, so that he may fynd syche a frend as wyll pay me a yen the seyd vj^{xx}*li.* by xx. mark a yer, so that it be not payed of the maryage money, nor of the propre goodes of my seyd cosyn John.

Or ellys, an other condycyon is thys, if it be so that my seyd cosyn John may be suffred, fro the day of hys maryage to my doughter, to take the hole profites of the maner of Sparham, besyde the maner of Sweynsthorpe, for terme of ther two lyves, and the longest of theym leveing, yet wyll I be agreable to depart with the seyd CCC. mark, payable ayen in forme above seyd [*and to geve theym ther boord for a yer or two*].[1]

And if thes or eny of the conclusyons may be takyn, I am agreable to make the bargayn swer, or ellys no more to be spokyn of.

792.

A.D. 1477, [March.]
John Pympe to Sir John Paston.

[From Fenn, ii. 226.]

This letter, Fenn tells us, was endorsed under the address in a handwriting of the time which he believed to be Sir John Paston's.—"Jon Pympe, xvj. die Mar'., anno E. 4, 17," showing the date at which it was received.

[1] These words are crossed out with the pen.

To Master Sir John Paston, be this letter delyverid in Calis.

ONWRE and joye be to yow, my ryght gode master, and most assured brother; letyng yow know that al yowre welwillers and servaunts, in these partyes, that I know, fare well, and better wold, if they mowht here of yowre wellbeyng, and forthwith sum of yowre Frenche and Borgoyne tidyngs; ffor we in these partyes be in grete drede lest the French Kyng with sum assaults shuld in eny wise distourbe yow of yowr soft, sote [*sweet*], and sewre slepys, but as yet we no thyng can here that he so disposeth hym.

Mary, we have herd sey, that the frowys [1] of Broggys, with there hye cappes, have gyven sum of yow grete clappys, and that the fete of her armys doyng is such, that they smyte al at the mowthe, and at the grete ende of the thyeh; but in faith we care not for yow, for we know well that ye be gode ynowh at defence. But we here sey, that they be of such corage, that they gyve yow moo strokys than ye do to them, and that they strike sorer than ye also. But I thynk that the English ladyes and jentylwomen, and the pore also, can do as well as they, and lyst not to lerne of them no thyng; and therefor we drede lest ther hye corages shuld meve them to make yow warre also. But God defend, for by my trowth than have ye much to do; for hit were better and more ese for to labor iij. or fowre dayes with mattokks and pykeisys to over turne yowr sande hills, as we here saye ye do ryht wurshipfully, than only one day to endure theyre fers encountrys; so as ye myht owther gete or save yowr wurshippys by; and loke that ye trust to have no rescow of us, for, so God me helpe, we have y nowh to do in these partyes with the same werrs. But in one thyng we preyse yowre sadnessys and discrecionys ryht much, that is, in kepyng of yowr trewse and pese with the Kyng of Fraunce, as the

[1] *Frau's, i.e.*, women. The writer's pleasantry in this passage is certainly rather coarse.

Kyng hath commaundid; and a grete reson why, for hit were to much for yow to have werre with all the world at onys, ffor the werre a fore seid kepith yow blameles; ffor every resonable man wetyth well, that hit is to much for eny pepyll levyng to do bothe at onys.

Syr, as for the more parts off my thowht, I praye yow recomaunde me un to yowr self, prayyng yow that y may contynew in such case as yowr godenes hath taken me of old, and if ye lyst to send eny tydyngs, or other thyng to the partyes that were wont to warme theym by yowr fyre, in feith I shall do yowr erand.

And as for barley, hit is of the same pryce that hit was wont to be of, and is the most sure corne, and best enduryng that may be. And, syr, where that sumtyme was a lytyll hole in a wall, is now a dore large ynowh and esy passage, whereof ye were the deviser, and have thank for yowr labor of sum partyes, but no thyng lastyth evyr. Y mene that y trow, my passage shall hastyly faile me, and the dore shalbe shet up agayne, lesse than Fortun be agreable to have my counseile kept; for not long ago, makyng my entre at that passage, I saw a sparow that useth those ewrys [*eireys*], and I saw her sytt so stille that y cowde not endure, but y must neds shote her, and so, God me help, I smote her, I trow evyn to the hert; and so I drede me lest owther the barley wyll ete the sparow, or ells the sparow wyll ete the barley, but as yet all is well, but reson shewt me that hit must neds fayle by contynewauns, lesse than I forsake bothe the sparow and the barley also.[1]

Syr, I have thank for the shew that I onys made of yow and daily gramercy, and ye theire prayer.

Syr, forthemore I beseche yow, as ye wyll do eny thyng for me, that ye se o day for my sake, and for yowr own plesure, all the gode hors in Caleys, and if ther be among theym eny pric[2] horse of deds, that is to sell, in especiall that he be well trottyng of his owne

[1] Perhaps this enigmatical passage may have reference to the Mrs. Barly mentioned in No. 789.

[2] In the modern version, Fenn reads here, "any prized horse of deeds," a reading which seems to me questionable.

corage, with owte fors[1] of sporis, and also a steryng [*stirring*] hors if he be, he is the better; I pray yow send me word of his color, deds, and corage, and also of his price, feynyng as ye wold by hym yowrself, and also I wold have hym sumwhat large, not with the largest; but no smalle hors, as more than a dowble hors; prayyng yow above all thyngs to have this in remembrauns, and that hastily as may be, for ther is late promysed me help to such an entent, and I wote not how long hit shall endure; and therfor I beseche yow send me word by tyme.

I trow the Frenshe men have taken up al the gode hors in Pycardye, and also they be wont to be hevy hors in labor, and that I love not, but a hevy hors of flesh, and lyht of corage y love well, for y love no hors that wyll al way be lene and slender like grehounds. God kepe yow. Yowr, J. Pympe.

Y pray yow to recomaund me to my cosyn Sir John Scot and all his, in especiall Mastres Benyngfeld.[2]

793.

A.D. 1477 [March?]
John Pympe to Sir John Paston.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

This letter was probably written about the end of March 1477, as the first of the three which preceded (No. 792) was received by Sir John in Calais on the 16th of the month.

To Syr John Paston, Knyht, be this delyverid in Calice.

MASTER Paston, I recommaund me to yow; and by cause that I have wrytyn to yow iij. long letteres, which as yet be answereles, I wote not whether that the length of mater acumbred yow, or elles the simpylnes of the effect displesid yow, or elles that ye have utterly refusid the proferes of

[1] "Fort" in Fenn, which is probably a misprint, as the word is spelled "force" on the opposite page.

[2] Margaret, daughter of Sir John Scot, and wife to Edmund Bedingfeld.—F.

my pore servyce and frendeship; but which of these soo ever hit be, hit hevyeth me.

Syr, hit nedith not, I trow, to send yow the tidynges of these partyes, how be hit I have thryes send yow such as here were, in entent that ye shuld send us of yowres; but as long as my lord and yowres is there, ye can not faile to have the certeynte of all owre English aventures, which is grete ese to yowr frendes and servauntes in this contre, for so much as they may make her letteres shorter by so much.

Syr, at the wrytyng of this letter, I was in Kent, where all thyng that I rejoisid, I wishid yow part of, or all; and as for myself, I am styll yowr servaunt and bedeman, and so am bownd to be so sore and sewrely, that I can not unbynde me.

Syr, this is the v. letter that I have sent yow, whereyn thys entent that folowyth was all wayes on, that is to say, that hit plesid yow sum on day to take so much labour for me for to se the jentyllest hors in Calice that is to be sold, and to lett me know of his colowre, dedes, and price, remembryng that he be also large as mesure wyll, for I love no small hors, nor hors that wyll evyr be lene and slendyr; but I wold have hym hye truttyng, if hit wylbe, and if he be styryng with all, he shall plese me the better, for I wuld have hym all for the plesur, and for the werre, but if he myht be for bothe. Veryly ther is no tidynges on that side the se, safe only the welfare of yow and all other there, that I wuld so fayne here of as of a jentyll trottyng hors that were lyght and pleasaunt in dedes, if eny such be there. Flemysh hors I thenk ye have y nowh that wyll play for a myle or ij., but such we have here also; how be hit I pray yow send me word of yowre store, and be sewre of the price, if ye like eny, or elles let sum man for yow.

No more, but God kepe yow, prayyng yow to recommaund me to my cosyn Syr John Scot, and to Syr Tyry Robsert. Let the letter be sent to the godewif of yowr loggyng. By yowr JOHN PYMPE.

794.

A.D. 1477.—John Pympe to Sir John Paston.

[From Fenn, ii. 234.]

We may as well place this letter—the only remaining one of the series that has been preserved—immediately after the other two. John Pympe seems to have been a very industrious correspondent, and the art of writing, in prose or verse, came to him very easily.

To Master Sir John Paston, Knight, be this letter delyvered in Calis.

FRESH amorouse sihts of cuntreys ferre and straunge
Have all fordoone[1] your old affeccion;
In plesurys new, your hert dooth score and raunge
So hye and ferre, that like as the fawcon
Which is alofte, tellith scorne to loke a down
On hym that wont was her feders to pyke and ympe;[2]
Ryht so forgotyn ye have your pore Pympe,

That wrytith, sendith, and wisshith alday your wele
More than his owne; but ye ne here, ne se,
Ne sey, ne send, and evyr I write and sele
In prose and ryme, as well as hit will be.
Sum evyll tong, I trow, myss sayeth of me
And ells your fast and feithfull frendelynes
Ye thenk mysspent on such as I, I gesse.

I wyll abate my customable concourse,
To yow so costuouse,[3] whan so evyr ye com agayn,
Which that I fele of reson, by the course
Of my proferid servyce, hath made yow so unfayne;
For veryly the water of the fowntayne
With brede only forthwith yowre presens
Me shuld content much more than your expense.

[1] Destroyed.—F.
[2] A term in Falconry, signifying the adding a piece to a feather in a hawk's wing.—F.
[3] Expensive.—F.

But ay deme I thus that Fortun hath hyryd yow,
For she but late of sorowys moo than many
Hath rakyd un to myn hert an hepe more than a moowe,
And wuld that ye shuld ley thereon on hye
Your hevy unkyndenes to make hit fast to lye,
And God knowth well hit cannot long lye there
But hit wyll bryng me to the chirch bere.

Take hit awaye therefore, y praye yow fayre,
For hardyly my hert beryth hevy y nowh,
For there is Sorow at rest as in hys chayre,
Fixid so fast with hys prikks rowh,
That in gode feith I wote not whan I lowh,[1]
For, Master Paston, the thyng whereon my blisse
Was holly sette, is all fordoone, I wysse.

By your JOHN PYMPE,
thes beyng the vj. letter that I have send yow.

Alway prayyng yow to remembre the hors that I have in every letter wryten for; as thus, that hit wuld plese yow to undrestond who hath the gentyllest hors in trottyng and steryng that is in Calis, and if he be to sell, to send me word of hys pris, largenesse, and colour. Hytt is told me, that the Master Porter hath a coragiouse ronyd hors, and that he wuld putt hym away by cause he is daungerous in companye; and of that I force [*care*] not, so that he be not chorlissh at a spore, as plungyng; and also I sett not by hym, but if he trotte hye and gentilly. No more, but God kepe yow.

JOHN PYMPE.

795.

A.D. 1477.—SIR JOHN PASTON TO JOHN PASTON.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

This letter is clearly written in answer to an application by John Paston to his brother to aid him in making arrangements with Sir Thomas Brews in the spring of 1477. Although the signature is lost, the handwriting is that of Sir John Paston.

[1] Laughed? Fenn in his modern version reads "when I love."

To hys weell belovyd brother, John Paston, Esquyer.

Recomande me to yow, letyng yow weete that I receyvyd a letter of yowres by Edward Hensted ij. dayes aftre that Whetley was departyd from me, whyche he hadde forgetyn in hys caskett, as he seyde, wheroff I sholde have sent yow answer by Whetley, iff I had hadde it toffore he wente, notwithstandyng I am ryght lothe to wryghte in that mater offte; for for a conclusion I wrote to my moodre by Peerse Moody alle that I myght and wolde doo ther in. Ye have also nowe wretyn ageyn. Yow neede nott to praye me to doo that myght be to yowr profyght and worship, that I myght doo ofter than ones, or to late me weete theroff; for to my power I wolde do for yow, and take as moche peyne for yowr weell, and remembre itt when per case ye sholde nott thynke on it yowr selffe. I wolde be as gladde that one gaffe yow a maner of xx*li.* by yeer, as iff he gave it to my selff by my trowthe.

Item, wher ye thynke that I may with concience recompence it ageyn on to owr stokke off other londys that I have off that valywe in fee symple, it is so that Snaylwell, by my grauntefadres will ones, and by my fadris will sceconderely, is entaylyd to the issyw of my fadres body.

Item, as for Sporle xx*li.* by yeer, I hadde ther off butt xx. marke by yere, whyche xx. marke by yeer and the x. marke ovyr, I have endangeryd, as ye weell knowe off that bargayne, whyche, iff itt be nott redemyd, I most recompence some other maner off myne to one off my bretheryn for the seyde x. marke, ovyr xx. marke that longyth to me; wherffor I kepe the maner off Runham. Than have I fe symple londe the maner of Wynterton with Bastwyk and Billys, whyche in alle is nott xx. marke by yeer, whyche is nott to the valywe off the maner off Sparham. And as for Castre, it weer noo convenyent londe to exchange for suche a thyng, nor it weer not polesy for me to sett that maner in suche case for alle maner of happis. I

nede nott to make thys excuse to yowe, but that yowr mynde is troblyd. I praye yow rejoyse nott yowr sylffe to moche in hope to opteyne thynge that alle yowr freendys may nott ease yow off; for if my moodre were dysposyd to gyve me and any woman in Ingelande the best maner that she hathe, to have it to me and my wyffe, and to the heyres off our too bodyes begotyn, I wolde nott take it off hyr, by God.

Stablysshe your selffe uppon a goode grownde, and grace shall folowe. Yowr mater is ferre spoken off, and blowyn wyde, and iff it preve noo better, I wolde that it had never be spoken off. Also that mater noysyth me that I am so onkynde that I lett alle togedre. I thynke notte a mater happy, nor weell handelyd, nor poletykly dalte with, when it can never be fynysshyd with owte an inconvenyence; and to any suche bargayne I kepe never to be condescentyng, ner of cowncell. Iffe I weer att the begynnyng of suche a mater, I wolde have hopyd to have made a better conclusyon, if they mokke yow notte. Thys mater is drevyn thus ferforthe with owte my cowncell, I praye yow make an ende with owte my cowncell. Iffe it be weell, I wolde be glad; iff it be oderwyse, it is pite. I praye yow troble me no moore in thys mater. . . .[1]

796.

A.D. 1477.—John Paston and Margery Brews.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

This paper, which is in John Paston's hand, was evidently written about the same time as the letter immediately following, in which it is mentioned that Margaret Paston had given up the manor of Sparham to her son. The paper is endorsed in a more modern hand: "Notes touching the mariage betwene Jo. Paston, Ar', and Margery Brews."

MEMORANDUM. — To kepe secret fro my moder that the bargayn is full concludyd.

Item, to let hyr have fyrst knowlage that in the chapell, wher as ye wold had ben no

[1] The lower part of this letter seems to have been cut off, and how much is lost does not appear.

book nye by x. myle, that when Mastyr Brews seyd that he wold shortly have eyther more lond in joyntour then Sweynsthorp and x. mark ought of Sparham, or ellys that some frend of myne shold paye the vj^{xx} *li.*, so that it shold not be payed of the maryage money, that then I sware on a book to hym that I wold never of my mocyon endanger moder nor broder ferther then I had done; for I thought that my modyr had done myche for me to geve me the maner of Sparham in syche forme as she had done. But Mastyr Breus wyll not agre, with ought that my mastress hys doughter and I be mad swer of it now in hand, and that we may take the hole profytes, what so ever fortune.

Item, to enforme my moder that if so be that we may be pute in possessyon of all the hole maner duryng oure two lyves, and the lengest of us leveing, that then Mastyr Brews wyll geve me in maryage with my mastresse hys doughter CCCC. markes, payable in hand l*li.*, and so yerly l*li.* tyll the some of CCCC. mark bew full payed.

Item, that wher as he had leyd up C*li.* for the maryage of a yonger doughter of hys, he wylle lend me the same C*li.* and xx*li.* more, to pledge ought my lond, and he to be payed ayen hys C*li.* and xx*li.* by x*li.* by yer.

Item, to avyse my modyr that she brek not for the yerly valew of Sparham above the x. mark dwryng hyr lyve.

797.

A.D. 1477, 28 March.

Sir John Paston to Margaret Paston.

[From Fenn, ii. 238.]

To my ryght worshypfull moodre, Margret Paston.

PLEASE it yow to weete, that I have receyvyd yowr letter, wherein is remembryd the gret hurte, that by liklihod myght ffalle to my brother, iff so be that thys matter betwyn hym and Sir Thomas Brewses doghtre take nott effecte; wheroff I wolde be as sory as hym selffe reasonably; and also the welthy and convenyent marriage that scholde be iff it take effecte: wheroff I wolde be as gladde as any man; and ame better content nowe, that he sholde have hyr, than any other, that evyr he was hertoffoor abowte to have hadde, consyderyd hyr persone, hyr yowthe, and the stok that she is comyn offe, the love on bothe sydes, the tendre ffavor that she is in with hyr ffader and mooder, the kyndenesse off hyr ffadr and moodr to hyr in departyng with hyr, the ffavor also, and goode conceyte that they have in my brother, the worshypfull and vertuous dysposicion off hyr ffadr and moodr, whyche pronostikyth that, of lyklihod, the mayde sholde be vertuous and goode; all which concyderyd, and the necessary relyffe that my brother most have, I mervayle the lesse, that ye have departyd, and gevyn hym the maner off Sperham, in such fforme as I have knowleche off by W. Gornay, Lomner, and Skypwyth; and I ame ryght gladde to se in yow suche kyndenesse on to my brother as ye have doon to hym; and wolde by my trowthe lever than C*li.* that it weer ffee symple londe, as it is entaylyd, whyche by liklyhood scholde prosper with hym and hys blode the better in tyme to come, and sholde also never cause debate in owr bloode in tyme to come, whyche Godde dyffende, ffor that weer onnaturell.

Item, another inconvenyence is, wher as I undrestande that the maner is gevyn to my brother, and to hys wyff, and to the issywe bytwen them bygoten; iff the case weer soo, that he and she hadde yssywe togedr a dowtr or moo, and hys wyffe dyed, and he maried afftr another, and hadde issywe a sone, that sone sholde have noon londe, and he beyng hys ffadres heyr, and

ffor th'enconvenyence that I have knowe let in ur[1] in case lyke, and yit enduryth in Kente, by tweyn a jentylman and his suster, I wolde ye toke the advyce off yowr concell in thys poynt, and that that is past yow by wrightyng or by promise, I deme verrely in yow, that ye dyd it off kyndenesse, and in eschywyng off a moor yll that myght befall.

Item, wher as it pleasyth yow that I sholde ratefye, grawnt, or conferme the seyd gyfte on to my brother, it is so, that with myn honeste I may nott, and ffor other cawses. The Pope will suffre a thyng to be usyd, but he will nott lycence nor grant it to be usyd nor don, and soo I. My brother John knowyth myn entent weel i now heer to ffoor in this mater; I will be ffownde to hym as kynde a brother as I may be.

Item, iff it be soo that Sir T. Brews and hys wyff thynke that I wolde troble my brother and hys wyff in the seid maner, I can ffynde no meene to putte them in sywerte ther off, but iff it neede, to be bownde in an obligacion with a condicion that I shalle nott trowble ner infete them therin.

Item, I thynke that she is made sywer i now in astate in the londe, and that off ryght I deme they shall make noone obstacles at my wryghtyng, ffor I hadde never none astate in the londe, ner I wolde nott that I had hadde.

No mor to yow at thys tyme, but Allmyghty God have yow in kepyng.

Wretyn at Caleys, the xxviij. daye of Marche, anno E. iiij. xvij°.

By yowr sone,

J. Paston, K.

798.

A.D. 1477, 14 April.

Sir John Paston to John Paston.

[From Fenn, ii. 244.]

[1] In ure, *i.e.*, in practise.

To John Paston, Esquyer.

RYGHT worshypfull and hertely belovyd brother, I recomaunde me to yow, letyng yow weete, that as by Pyrse Moody, when he was heer, I hadde no leyser to sende answer in wryghtyng to yow, and to my cosyne Gurnaye, off yowr letteris; butt ffor a conclusion ye shalle ffynde me to yow as kynde as I maye be, my conciense and worshyp savyd, whiche, when I speke with yow and them, ye bothe shall weell undrestande. And I praye God sende yow as goode speede in that mater as I wolde ye hadde, and as I hope ye shall have er thys letter come to yow; and I praye God sende yow yssywe betwyne yow, that maye be as honorable as ever was any off your ancestris and theris, wheroff I wolde be as gladde in maner as off myn owne. Wherffor I praye yow sende me worde how ye doo, and iff Godde ffortune me to doo weell, and be off any power, I woll be to Sir Thomas Brewse, and my lady hys wyffe, a verry sone in lawe ffor yowr sake, and take them as ye doo, and doo ffor them as iff I weer in case like with them as ye bee. No moor, but Jesus have yow in kepyng.

Wretyn at Caleys, the xiiij. daye off Aprill, anno E. iiij. xvij°.

As ffor tydyngs her, the Frenshe Kynge hathe gothen many off the towns off the Duk of Burgoyne, as Seynt Quyntyns, Abevyle, Motrell; and now off late he hathe goten Betoyne and Hedynge with the castell ther, whyche is one off the ryallest castells off the worlde; and on Sonday at evyn the Ameralle off Fraunce leyde seege at Boloyne; and thys daye it is seyde, that the Frenshe Kynge shalle come thyddr; and thys nyght it is seyde, that ther was a vysion seyne abowte the walls of Boloyne, as it hadde ben a woman with a mervylowse lyght; men deme that Owr Lady ther will shewe hyrselff a lover to that towne. God fforfende that it weer Frenshe, it weer worthe xl.m^{l}*li.* [£40,000] that it wer Englyshe.

J. PASTON, K.

799.

A.D. 1477, 11 June.
Margaret Paston to Dame Elizabeth Brews.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

This is another letter relative to the negotiations for the marriage of John Paston and Margery Brews, which took place in 1477.

To the ryght wurchypfull and my verry good [*lady and cosyn, Dame Elyzabeth*][1] *Brews.*

RYGHT wurchepful and my cheff lady and cosyn, as hertly as I can, I recomaunde me to yow. Madam, lyeketh yow to undyrstand that the cheff cause of my wrytyng to yow at thys season ys thys: I wot well yt ys not unremembred with yow the large comunycacyon that dyvers tymes hathe ben had towchyng the maryage of my cosyn Margery, yowyr dowghter, and my son John; of whyche I have ben as glad, and now late wardes as sory, as evyr I was for eny maryage in myn lyve. And wher or in whom the defawte of the breche ys, I can have no perfyte knowlage; but, madam, yf yt be in me or eny of myn, I prey yow assygne a day when my cosyn yowyr husbond and ye thynk to be at Norwych to wardes Salle, and I wyll com theder to yow; and I thynk or ye and I departe, that the defawte schall be knowe where yt ys, and also that, with yowyr advyse and helpe and myn to gedyrs, we schall take some wey that yt schal not breke; for yf yt dyd, yt wer non honoure to neyther partyes, and in cheff to them in whom the defawte ys, consyderyng that it ys so ferre spokun.

And, madam, I prey yow that I may have perfyte knowlage be my son Yelverton,[2] berar here of, when thys metyng schall be, yf ye thynk it expedyent, and the

[1] The words bracketed are indistinct, but we follow Fenn's reading.
[2] William Yelverton, grandson of Judge Yelverton, now married to Anne Paston, one of Margaret's daughters.

soner the better, in eschewyng of worsse; for, madam, I know well, yf yt be not concludyd in ryght schort tyme, that as for my son he entendyth to doo ryght well by my cosyn Margery, and not so well by hym sylf, and that schuld be to me, nor I trust to yow no gret plesur, yf yt so fortunyd, as God deffend, Whom I beseche to send yow your levest desyers.

Madam, I besech yow that I may be recomawndyd by this bylle to my cosyn yowyr husbond, and to my cosyn Margery, to whom I supposyd to have gevyn an othyr name or thys tyme.

Wretyn at Mawteby, on Seynt Barnaby is Day.

By your, MARGARET PASTON.

800.

A.D. 1477, 23 June.

SIR JOHN PASTON TO JOHN PASTON.

[From Fenn, ii. 248.]

To John Paston, Esquyer.

I Recomand me to yow, letyng yow weete that I have spoken to Herry Colett,[1] and entretyd hym in my best wyse ffor yow, soo that at the last he is agreyd to a resonable respyght ffor the xvl*i.* that ye sholde have payd hym at Mydsomer, as he seyth, and is gladde to do yow ease or plesyr in all that he maye; and I tolde hym that ye wolde, as I supposyd, be heer at London, herr nott long to, and than he lokyth afftr that ye sholde come see hym, ffor he is sheryff, and hathe a goodely hows.

Item, my Lady off Oxenflorth[2] lokyth afftr yow and Arblaster bothe.

[1] Sir Henry Colet was Lord Mayor of London in 1486.—F.

[2] Margaret, daughter of Richard Neville, Earl of Salisbury; she was during the imprisonment of her lord in great distress.—F.

My Lord off Oxenfford[1] is nott comen in to Inglonde that I can perceyve, and so the goode lady hathe nede off helpe and cowncell howe that she shall doo.

No moor at thys tyme, butt God have yow in kepyng.

Wretyn att London on Seynt Awdryes Daye, anno E. iiij^{ti} xvij^{o}.

Tydyngs butt that yisterdaye my Lady Marqueys off Dorset,[2] whych is my Lady Hastyngs dowtr, hadyd chylde a sone.

Item, my Lord Chamberleyn is comyn hyddr ffro Caleys, and redyn with the Kynge to Wyndeshor, and the Kyng will be here ageyn on Mondaye.

J. P., K.

801.

A.D. 1477, 29 June.
John Paston to Margaret Paston.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

This letter, with the two subjoined, are drafts written on the same paper in John Paston's hand. They must belong to the year 1477, being on the same subject, already so often referred to, of the negotiations for John Paston's marriage. Fenn has added addresses to all these letters, and a signature to the first, which are not in the original MS.

RYGHT worchepfull and my most good and kynd moder. Moder, in as humbyll wyse as I can or may, I recomand me to yow, and beseche yow of your dayly blyssyng. Moder, please it yow to undyrstond that tyll thys day Dame Elyzabeth Brews hathe ben so syke that she myght nevyr, sythe she cam to Salle, have leyser to comon of my mater with Master Brews tyll thys day; and thys day

[1] John de Vere, Earl of Oxford, was at this time a prisoner in the Castle of Hammes, in Picardy; what expectation there was of his coming into England at this time I know not.—F.

[2] Cecily, wife of Thomas Grey, Marquis of Dorset, was great granddaughter and heir of William Bonvile, Lord Bonvile, who was beheaded by order of Margaret of Anjou, after the second battle of St. Alban's in 1461.

with gret peyn, I thynk the rather because Heydon[1] was ther, the mater was comond, but other answer than she hathe sent yow in hyr lettre closed her in can she not have of hyr husbond. Wherfor, modyr, if it please yow, myn advyse is to send hyr answer ayen in thys forme folowing, of some other manys hand.

[*Margaret Paston to Dame Elyzabeth Brews.*]

"Ryght worchepfull and my verry good lady and cosyn, as hertly as I can, I recomand me to yow. And, madam, I am ryght sory, if it myght be otherwyse, of the dysease, as I undyrstand by the berer herof, that my cosyn your husbond and ye also have had a season, whyche I prey God soone to redresse to your bothe easeis. And, madam, I thank yow hertly that ye have remembred the mater to my cosyn your husbond, that I spak with you of at syche tyme as I was last with you at Norwyche, to my gret comfort. And I wyse, madam, I am ryght sory that John Paston is no more fortunate then he is in that mater; for, as I undyrstand by your lettyr, my cosyn your husbond wyll geve but an C*li.*, whyche is no money lyek for syche a joyntore as is desyred of my son, thow hys possybylyte wer ryght easy. But, madam, when I mad that large grant in the maner of Sperham that I have mad to hym and my cosyn your doughter, he told me of an other some that he shold have with hyr then of an C*li.* He hathe befor thys be wont to tell me none untrowthe; and what I shall deme in thys mater, I can not sey, for me thynkyth if more then an C*li.* wer promysyd on to hym by my cosyn your husbond and yow, that ye wold not lett to geve it hym, with ought so wer that I or he abryggyd eny thyng of our promess, whyche I wot well neyther I or he intend to do, if I may undyrstand that hys seying to me was trowthe, and that it may be

[1] John Heydon of Baconsthorpe, who died on the 27th September 1479.—Inquisition p.m., 19 Edw. IV., No. 72.

performyd; but wyst I that he told me otherwyse then my cosyn yowr husbond and ye promysed hym, to deseyve me of Sparham, by my trowthe, thow he have it, he shall lese as myche for it, iff I leve, and that shall he well undyrstand the next tyme I se hym.

"And, madam, I prey God send us good of thys mater, for as for hys broder Sir John also, I sent ones to hym for it to have mad good the same graunt that I grauntyd yow with hys assent, to them and to ther issu of ther ij. bodyes lawfully comyng, and he dyd not ther in as I desyred hym. And ther for I prey yow pardon me for sendyng on to hym eny more; for, madam, he is my sone, and I can not fynd in my hert to becom a dayly petycyoner of hys, sythe he hathe denyed me onys myn axing. Peraventure he had ben better to have performyd my desyer; and what hys answer was on to me, John Paston can tell yow as well as I. But, madam, ye ar a moder as well as I, wher I prey tak it non other wyse bot well, that I may not do by John Paston, as ye wyll have me to do; for, madam, thow I wold he dyd well, I have to purvey for more of my chylder then hym, of whyche some be of that age, that they can tell me well inow that I dele not evenly with theym to geve John Paston so large, and theym so lytyll; and, madam, for syche grwgys and other causys, I am ryght sory that the graunte is knowyn that I have mad, with ought it myght take effect. And therfor, madam, fro hensforthe I remyght all thyng to yowr dyscressyon, besechyng yow, the rather for my sake, to be my son Johnis good lady; and I prey God preserve yow to Hys plesure, send yow hastyly yowr hele ayen, and my cosyn yowr husbond also, to whom I prey yow that I may hertly be recomandyd, and to my cosyns Margery and Margaret Byllyngforthe.

"Wretyn at Mawtby, on Seynt Petrys Day.

"Yowr, MARGARET PASTON."

"*An other lettyr to me that I may shewe.*

"I gret yow well, and send you Godes blessyng and myn, letyng yow wet that I undyrstand well by my cosyn, Dame Elyzabeth Brewsys lettyr, whyche I sende yow her with, wherby ye may undyrstand the same, that they intend not to performe thos proferys that ye told me they promysyd yow, trustyng that ye told me none other wyse then was promysed yow. Wherfor I charge yow on my blyssyng that ye be well ware how ye bestow your mynd with ought ye have a substance wher upon to leve; for I wold be sory to wet yow myscary; for if ye do, in your defawt looke never aftyr helpe of me. And also I wold be as sory for hyr as for eny gentywoman leveing, in good feythe; wherfor I warne yow, be ware in eny wyse; and look ye be at Mawtby with me as hastyly as ye can, and then I shall tell yow more. And God kepe yow.

"Wretyn at Mawtby, on Seynt Petrys Day.

"Your modyr, M. P."

802.

A.D. 1477, 7 Aug.

Sir John Paston to Margaret Paston.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

To the ryght worshypfull Mestresse Margret Paston.

PLEASE it yow to weete that I have receyvyd yowr letter, wretyn the Tywesdaye nexte afftre Seynt James Daye, wherin ye desyre me to remembre Kokett, and also to be helpyng to my brother Johnes mariage. As for Kokett, as God helpe me, I knowe nott yitt the meanes possible that I myght paye hym by thatt daye, ffor thoos materis

that be off grettest wyght and charge, and that stonde nerrest my weell, that is to seye, the sywerte off the maner off Castre, and the mater betwen Anne Hault and me shall, with Goddes grace, thys terme be at a perffyght ende, whyche will charge me fferther than I have mony as yitt, or lyke to have byffor that tyme, off myne owne, and, as God helpe me, I wote nott where to borow.

Item, I most paye with in thys iij. yeer iiij$^{c.}$ [400] marke to Towneshende, or ellis fforffett the maner off Sporle, and thus my charges be gretter than I maye a weye with, concidryd suche helpe as I have; and iff it ffortunyd that I fforffetyd the maner off Sporle, ye weer never lyke to se me myry afftre, so God helpe me. Ye gave me ones xx*li.* to it wardes, and ye promyttyd as moche, whyche I receyvyd, and synnys off my mony off seide maner growyng that come to yowr handys was receyvyd by yow ageyn the seyd xl*li.*, whyche, when Kokett scholde be payed, was nott yowr ease to departe wyth. Neverthelesse ye may yitt, when yow lyketh, perfforme yowr sayde gyffte and promyse, and thys somme owyng to Kokett is nott so moche; neverthelesse I suppose that ye be nott so weell purveyed. Wherffor, iff it please yow at yowr ease her afftre to performe yowr seyde gyffte and promyse, so that I may have it with in a yer or ij. or yitt iij., I sholde per case gete yowr obligacion to yow ageyn ffrom Kokett, and he pleasyd. Wherffor I beseche yow that I maye have an assyngnement of suche dettes as been owyng yow, payeable at leyser off suche mony as is owyng ffor the woode at Basyngham or ellys wher; ffor, so God helpe me, I sholde ellys wylfully ondoo myselffe, wherin I beseche yow to sende me an answer in hast.

Item, as towchyng the mariage off my brother John, I have sente hym myn advyce, and tolde hym wherto he shall truste, and I have grauntyd hym as moche as I maye. I wolde that I weer at on communycacion atwyen them for hys sake, whyche I sholde if I myght. As for my comyng home, I ame nott yitt sertayn

therof; I shalle hast me as faste as I canne, with the grace of God, Who have yow in Hys kepyng.

I beseche yow to remembre the premyssis, and to helpe me, and with Goddes grace, thes ij. materis above wretyn, bothe of Castre and Mestresse Anne Hault, shall be endyd to my profyth and rest, and moor ovyr, er awghte longe to, with Goddes grace, the maner of Sporle to be owte of danger; promyttyng yow that I shall doo in Kokettes mater as moche as is possible for me to doo to yower plesyr. It shall never neede to prykk nor threte a free horse. I shall do whatt I can.

Wretyn the Thorysdaye next byffore Seynt Lawrence, ann o E. iiij^{ti} xvij.

By yowre sone,

JOHN PASTON, K.

803.

A.D. 1477, 11 Aug.

MARGARET PASTON TO SIR JOHN PASTON.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

This letter is not addressed, the original being a corrected draft, but there is no doubt it was written to Sir John Paston in reply to the last. It is endorsed in a more modern hand: "Copia literæ Jo. Paston, mil., a matre sua."

YT ys soo that I undyrstonde be yowyr letter wretyn the Thyrsday nexte be fore Seynt Lauerons, that ze wulde have knowlage how that I wuld be demenyd in Cokettes mater; qweche I send you here undyr wretyn. I putte yow in certeyn that I wull nevyr pay him peny of that duty that ys owyng to hym, thow he sue me for yt, not of myn owyn pursse; for I wul nat be compellyd to pay yowyr dettes azens my well, and thow I wuld, I may nat. Where fore I a wyse yow to see me savyd harmelesse azens hym for yowyr owyn a wauntage in tyme

cumyng, for yf I pay yt, at longe wey ze xall bere the losse.

And where as ze wryte to me that I gave yow xx*li.*, and promysyd odyr xx*li.*, that ys nat soo, for I wutte wele yf I had soo doon, ze wuld nat assynyd me be yowyr letterys of yowyr owyn hande wrytyng, the whech I have to schew, that I schuld resseyve a zen the same summe of Wylliam Pecok, and of yowyr fermores, and byars of yowyr wood of Sporle; and take this for a full conclusyon in thys mater, for yt xall be noon othyr wyse for me than I wryte here to yow.

I mervel meche that ze have delte azen soo symply wyth Sporle, consyderyng that ze and yowyr frendys had so meche to doo for to geetyt yow azen onys; and ye havyng noo gretter materes of charge than ze have had sythyn yt was laste pleggyt owte, yt causyth me to be in gret dowte of yow what yowyr dysposycion wul be here aftyr for swheche lyfelood as I have be dysposyd before this tyme to leve yow after my decesse. For I thynke veryly that ye wulde be dysposyd here aftyr to selle or sette to morgage the lond that ye xulde have after me yowyr modyr as gladdly and rathyr than that lyfe lood that ye have after yowyr fadyr. Yt grevyth me to thynke upon yowyr gydeyng after the greet good that ze have had in yowyr rewle sythyn yowyr fadyr deyyd, whom God assoyle, and soo symply spendyt as yt hath ben. God geve yow grace to be of sadde and good dysposyn here after to Hys plesans, and comforte to me, and to all yowyr frendys, and to yowyr wurchyp and profyte here after.

And as for yowyr brothyr Wylliam, I wuld ye xulde purvey for hys fyndyng, for as I told yow the laste tyme that ye ware at home, I wuld no lenger fynde hym at my cost and charge; hys boord and hys scole hyer ys owyng sythyn Seynt Thomas Day afore Cristmesse, and he hathe greet nede of gownys and odyr gere that whare necessary for hym to have in haste. I wulde ze xulde remembyrt and purvey them, for as for me, I wul nat. I thynke ze sette butte lytyl be

myn blessyng, and yf ye dede, ye wulde a desyyrd yt in yowyr wrytyng to me. God make yow a good man to Hys plesans.

Wretyn at Mawteby, the day after Seynt Lauerons, the yere and the renge of Kyng E. the iiij^te^ the xvij. zere.

Be yowyr Modyr.

804.

A.D. 1477, 17 Aug.

Edmund Bedyngfeld to Sir John Paston.

[From Fenn, ii. 250.]

The events referred to in this letter prove that it was written in the year 1477.

Un to the ryght wurschepful Sir John Paston, Knyght.

MASTER Paston, after all dew recomandacion, and herty dissire to here of your good hele, plese yt you to wete I have spoken with Sir John of Medilton as wel as I cowde, and yt had ben for myself, for his hoby that ye dissired, and tolde hym he myght wel forbere hym nowe in as moche as Mastres Jane was ded, and that yt is a great cost for hym to kepe moo hors than he nedyth; and he answered me, that he wold selle hym with good will, but ther shuld no man bie hym under x*li.* Flemesch;[1] and I offered hym in your name, x. marke, for he wold not here of none other ambelyng horse, that ye myght geve hym therfore. And also my lord dissired to have bowte hym for the Lord Schauntrell that is cheff capteyn of Seynt Omers; and he wold no lesse lete my lord have hym than x*li.* and so my lord bowte another, and gave hym the seide lord, for he thoughte

[1] Between £5 and £6 English, and equal in value to upwards of £20 at this present time, apparently a great price for a hobby.—F.

this to dere; neverthelesse he wol not selle hym to no man under that mony, that he sette hym on, and so ye may bye your plesur in hym and ye lest; for otherwyse he wol not doo for you, as I conseve.

And as for tydyngs in theyse partyes, the Frenche Keng leyzth at sege at Seynt Omers, on the one side of the town a myle of, but he hath no gret ordenaunce ther; and they of the town skyrmysh with them every day, and kepe a passage halff a myle with oute the town; and the French Keng hath brenned all the townys, and fayre abbeys, that were that way aboute Seynt Omers, and also the cornes weche ar there. And also, as yt ys seide for serteyn, the French Keng hath brenned Cassell, that ys myn hoold Lady of Burgeynys [1] joynttor, and all the countre there aboute, whereby she hath lost a gret part of her lyvelod; and that is a sherewed tokyn that he menyth wel to the Keng, howur suffereygn Lord, when he intendyth to distroye her.

Morover Sir Phylep de Crevekere hath takyn them that were in Fynys with inne this iiij. dayes to the noumbre of xiiij. personys, and the remnaunt where fled, and he had them to the French Keng, and he hath brentte all the place, and pulled down the towre, and a part of the wall, and disstroyed yt.

And as yt is seid, yf the Fench Keng can not gete Seynt Omers, that he intendyth to brenge his armye thorwe theyse marchys into Flaundres; wherefore my lord hath do brokyn all the passages excep Newham bryge, weche is wached, and the turne pyke shette every nyght. And the seide French Keng with inne these iij. dayes rayled gretely of my lord to Tygyr Pursevaunt, opynly byfore ij. hundred of his folks; wherefore yt ys thaught here that he wold feynde a quarell to sett upon thys town, yf he myght gete avantage. And as I understonde, the Emperorys sone [2] ys maryed at Gaunte as this day; and ther cam with hym but iiij. hundred

[1] Margaret, sister to Edward IV., widow of Charles the Bold, Duke of Burgundy.

[2] Maximilian, son of the Emperor Frederick, married Mary, daughter and heir of Charles the Bold, Duke of Burgundy.—F.

horse, and I can here of no moo that be comyng in serteyn; and in mony he brengyth with hym an hundred thowsand dokets, wheche is but a smalle thyng in regard for that he hath to doo. Wherefore, I fere me sore, that Flaundres will be lost; and yf Seynt Omers be whonnyn, all is gon, in my conceyt. Never the lesse they say there shuld come gret powere after the Emperorys son; but I be leve yt not, by cause they have ben so long of comyng.

And I pray you to recomaunde me unto Sir Tyrry Robsert, and that yt plese you to lete hym knowe of your tydyngs, and Hour Lord have you in His kepyng.

At Calais, the Sunday next after Hour Lady the Assumpsion.

Youn,

E. Bedyngfeld.[1]

805.

A.D. 1477, 22 Aug.

Agnes and William Paston.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

The heading of this document is taken from an endorsement on the original MS.

The names of the maners of Agnes Pastons and William Paston, in Norffolk, how thai shuld be taken hede to this harvest, anno xvij°.

And a copy of the same send to Richard Lynstede, the xxij. day of August, anno xvij°, per Bacheler Water.

Paston maner, . . . Se that the fermour in his corne on my moders fe. Seale dores and distrayne, and put in a newe fermour.

[1] Edmund Bedyngfeld married Margaret, daughter of Sir John Scot, Comptroller of Calais, and was created a Knight of the Bath at the Coronation of Richard III. He was highly in favour with Henry VII., who paid him a royal visit at Oxburgh, in Norfolk, which fine seat he built. He died in 1496.—F.

Wodemyl, . . .	Distrayne.
Latymers, . .	Gadir the rente.
Sewardbys, ...	Gadir the rente.
Trunche, ...	Distrayne on the grounde after it is fellid, while it lieth on my moders fe.
Spriggeis, ...	Gader the rente.
Knapton fe, . . .	
Crowmer, ...	Gadir the rente.
Owstoonde, ...	Distrayne.
Rowton, ...	Distrayne, and arest the fermour.
Riston, ...	Lete Lynstedes brother gader the rente.
Oxned maner, . . .	Se the fermour in his croppe, and after seale doris and distrayne, and lete hym not renne in dette as other fermours did.
Oxned mylle, . . .	Se the fermour in his croppe, and after seall doris and distrayne, and lete hym not renne in dette as other fermours did.
Caster Cleres, . . .	Aske the ferme.
Holkhams tenement, .	Aske the ferme.
The mersh in Caster, .	Aske the ferme.
Caster Bardolf, . . .	Aske the ferme a rent.
Caster Clere rentes, .	Distrayne tenauntes.
Holham rentes, . .	
Ormysby my fe, . .	
Somerton, ...	Se that he in his corn, and seall dores and distrayne, till he fynde suerty.
Thirn, ...	Aske the ferme.
Sowth Walsham, .	
Halvyrzates, ...	
Todenham, ...	Aske the rente, and areste Smyth.

Cokfeldes, . . .	Aske the rente.
Apawys, ...	Se he in his corn, and seall dores and distrayne.
Marlyngfor maner, . .	Sele doris and distrayne.
Marlyngford mylle, .	Seale doris and distrayne.
Merlyngforde tenauntes,	Distrayne.
Melton, ...	Se the croppe inned, and seale doris and distrayne.
Bonwell, ...	Aske rente.
Carleton, ...	Aske rente.
Thuxstons, ...	Aske rente.
Lynghall nuper Dokkynges.	Aske rente fro Mich. xvj. till xvij° and distrayne.
Bulmans nuper Dokkynges.	Aske rente fro Mich. xvj° til xvij°, and exorte Martyn to kepe the ferme still, and if he woll not, praye hym to gete a noder.
Yeaxham nuper Dokkynges.	Aske rente fro Mich. xvj° till xvij°, and gete a newe fermour, and increse the rente, and make a newe terrar and rentall.
Styberd nuper Dokkynges,	Aske rent fro Mich. xv° till Mich. xvij°, and distrayne, and allowe no dewty of Dokkynges in abatyng my rente.
Thymbilthorp nuper Dokkynges.	Aske rente fro Mich. xv° till Mich. xvij°, and distrayne, and allowe noe dewty of Dokkynges in abatyng my rente.

These maners that are trahid take gode hede that ye be in gode suertye of them this harvest tyme.

806.

A.D. 1477, 31 Oct.
Sir John Paston's Will.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

The original of this document is mutilated. It is endorsed in a more modern hand, "Testamentum Johannis Paston Senioris militis."

[I, JOHN PASTON,] Knyght, in the last day of O[ctober, Anno] Domini m^{l}cccclxxvij^{o}, will, graunte, and be queth my sowle to All myghty God, and to the . . . . . Marye, Seint John Baptist, Seint Gorge, Seint Cristofur, and Seint Barbara; and my body, yf I dyghe ny the Cyte of London, [to the chapel] of Owre Lady in the Whithe Frerys there, at the Northeest corner of the body of the chyrche, and there to be made an orator[y] . . . . . or muche leke as ys over Sir Thomas Browne in the Frere Prechours, to the valour of xx*li.*, so that it may cause . . . . . ther prayours there, the rather to remembre my sowle, and to pray therefore; and that there be gevyn to the behoff . . . . . at plotte of grounde be made suer unto me for ever the some of xx. marc.

. . . . . dayly, be the space of an holl yere, by soumme well disposed brother of the same howse, and that the seyd brother . . . . . [not]withstondyng yf I decesse in the counte of Norffolk, or there nye abouute, I wolde my bodye were buried at the prio[ry of Bromholm] . . . . . un to the Founders Toumbe, which arche is unto the North syde, and ryght agayn my fadyr toum[be] . . . . . ith an awter and a toumbe for me, to the value of xx*li.*, and that the howse there have a rewarde . . . . . to the frerys of London, and that there be also a broder of that howse to synge for my sowle by one . . . . . salarye.

. . . . . .
a closette made at my cost over my faders body ther . . . . . of xx*li.*, so that owre cousyns . . . . . have the more devocion to that place, and the rather reste there bodyes there the encresse of the . . . . . encrese and profite of the howse, and reste on the religeus there of, lyke as owr auncetours have . . . . . [a]nd to the entent that I disclosed but on to fewe persons concernyng the fee ferme that is payed . . . . . Duke of Suffolk.

[Item, I will that my bro]ther, John, yf I dye with owth yssue leffull of my bodye, have the maner of Swaywell to hym and . . . . . accordyng to the willez both of myn graunfader and of my fader, on whos sowles God have mercye, the . . . . . esse.

[Item, I will that the] Bysshoppe of Wynchester, or his assygnes, woll and fynde suerte to do founde at the lyste iiij. prestys . . . . . of John Fastolf and his frendys, &c., at Caster, and that there be bylded loggyng conveniant for those . . . . . adjoynyng uppon the bakhous over the gardeyn withouuth the mote on the Weste syde of my . . . . . in the seid maner or maners yn Caster, graunt by chartour, grounde, space, and londe, convenyant for such . . . . . entre and yssue therunto, and to that entent, and byldyng or purchasyng of license of the kyng . . . . . profitez of the seid maners holly be expendid the terme of vij. yerez next after my dissece ; and, moreover, ... resorte theder in his owne persone to over see the werkys or byldyng or establyssyng of the seyd howse [he shall h]ave playn lyberte to dwell withinne my seid maner and fortresse the seid terme of vij. yerez, and that . . . . . estys.

. . . . . [cha]pell

ot Seint John Baptyst, withyn the seyd towne of Caster, with all the profitez yerly of that same begen-y[ng] . . . . . ed to the seyd college or howse for evermore, with lycence therunto had of the Kyng and of the Pope, with . . . . . in Caster before seyd, which londis, with the seyd chapell, schalbe of the yerly value of vij*li.* yerly . . . . . ment of one prest above the charge that the Bysshope wyll do to pray for the sowles of my fader . . . . . Thomas Lyndys, clerk, and of Sir John Dawbeney. And that after this above wretyn be performed, yf that . . . . . es make astate by fyne reryd and enrolled in the Kynges courte of the seid maner and maners in Castre . . . . . yssue of his bodye laufully comyeng, and for defaute of yssue of his body law-fully . . . . . [rem]ayne to the issue of my moders lawfully commynge. And for defaute of yssue of her body lawfully commyng . . . . . myn uncle, Edward Maudeby, and to the yssue of his body lawfully commynge. And that for defaute . . . . . [comm]yng that the seyd maners remayn to my cousyn, Sir William Calthorpe, and to the right eyrez . . . . . defaute of issue of his body lawfully commynge, the seyd maners to reverte to the . . . . . .

[Item, I will that the priest of the chap]ell of the seyd collage be presented by the lordys of my seid maner . . . . . ed by Syr John Fastolff.

. . . . . eryng de eadem villa vendatur per executores meos ad perimplendum et persolvendum. . . . . em invenetit securitatem ad redimendum manerium de Sporle prædictum, quod si ipse . . . . . x. acr' terræ de eisdem perquesit' de Johanne Kendall tempore debito dentur prædicto Johanni fratri [meo et hæredibus suis legiti]me pro-creatis; et defectu exitus legitimi de prædicto Johanne

fratre meo, tunc prædictæ terræ et tenementa remaneant . . . . . triavi mei, legittime procreatis; et pro defectu exitus legittimi prædicti triavi mei, tunc remaneant Willelmo . . . . . [et hæredibus i]psius Willelmi legitime procreatis; et pro defectu exitus legitimi prædicti Willelmi, tunc omnia prædicta terræ et tenementa [remaneant] . . . . . assignatis imperpetuum; proviso quod executores testamenti Willelmi Pekering habeant x. marcas pro . . . . . et habeat xxxvij. acras terræ de prædictis terris sibi per voluntatem patris ejus assignatis sive legatis si tantæ . . . . . terræ quæ idem Johannes vendidit sint de numero illarum acrarum sibi limitatarum per Nicholaum patrem prædicti Johannis ac . . . . . recompensacionem; eo quod idem Johannes forte credidit quod ipse juste potuit vendere, quæque terræ et tenementa in feofamento . . . . . [pat]ris, non obstante quod pater prædictus non declaravit quicquid faciendum de dictis terris suis ultra certas acras . . . . . na ipsius patris.

807.

A.D. 1477, 19 Nov.

WILLIAM PEKOC TO SIR JOHN PASTON.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

This letter is endorsed by Sir John Paston, "Pekok, m. [*i.e.* mense] Decembris, anno E. iiij^ti^ xvij^o^."

To my ryth worschepffull master, Sir John Paston, Knyth, logyd at the Goorge, be Powll Warffe, in London, in hast.

RYTH worchepful sir, I recomand me to yowr good masterchep. Plseyth you to wete that I have purweyid for for your heryng a non

after your departyng, but I can yet no caryage, nowthir owte of Yermowth, ner in no oder place be twyn Wynterton and Leystoft, nowthir be lond nor be the se, not yet; and specyally for your swanes. Hery Cook seyth he wolle no more come on the se with his good wylle. Ther is no man wyllyng to del with your swanes. Also, as for your hors, ye most ordayne a nothir keper than they have, or ellis ye chal not leke wel be them whan ye se hem; they arn nowthir redyn nor corayd. Peris is meche owteward, and Whyte wol not a tende hem, nowdyr for Peris ner for me. They arn not watryd butt at the welle. Peris hath be ryth seke; and yet, but for dyspleser of you, Peris had ben in hand with Whyte or this tyme. Ye muste be proveyd of a nothir hors keper, or elles it wol do you harm on your hors. Also, I have had iiij*li.* for to a sent you if I cowde have gete ony trosty man to youward. As for barly, I can non selle a bove xiij*d.* the comb. As your leter that ye sent me, I have fownd a frere that hath promyssyd me to do'n his dever if it may be browte a bowte be ony mene in hast. Also there is a grete chyppe go to wrekke be for Wynterton, and there came up on your several grownd gret plente of bowe stawys and waynescotte, and clappalde[1] grete plente. I gate cartys and caryd to the towne that that was fownd on your fee. Mastras Clere hath sen down hyr men, and with set alle the stuff and wrekke, and seyth that ye gete non there, for sche wol have it be the tytyl of the lete, and I have answerd there to, that che owte non to have be that tytil; and so if ye wol comon with yor cownsel, I trow it to the lord of the soylle and not to the lete; for the maner holdyth nothyng of hyr. Sche had never no wrekke nor growndage till withinne this xx. wynter. There is no maner in Wyynterton but your; lesse your ryth now and lesse it for ever. I am threte to be trobelid there, for there ben v. men on lyve of the chyppe. The bordes had ben good for wyndownes and dores.

[1] Board cut to make casks.

Ye chuld have had thyme worthe the money, and sche had not lettyd it. Ther is com up ter [*there*?] at Caster v. or vj. barell. Men of Scrowby hath fet it awey. Ye must have a meen be sum wryte of trespas for them, or ellis it wool do yow meche harm here after. Rechard Kedman, John Pool, senior, and William Abbys, these arn summe of ther namys of Scrowby.

Item, I receyved a leter the Twis day befor Sen Edmunde the Kyng there as ye wryte to me for William Foster; his sewirtesse ston chargyd for iiij*li.* vj*s.* viij*d.*, as John Seyve hath seyd to me or the tyme that I receyvyd your leter, but he hath ij. men of Norwech to sewirte to save hym and his felaw harmeless. Scharggar is on, and Vyncent the plomer is a nothir that chal bere the dawnger. And as for your swanes, I have gette a man that chal cary hem be lond, and that I chal send word with the swanes that the herynges chal com be water; and if the chuld have ony heryng for your store, it wold be purveyd for, for heryng wol be dere or Lente.

Item, there arn wyndownes blow opyn in the place, and the wyndown of the gonne hows with inne the brege is revyn. I wot not whethir it was so or ye wente or not. My Lord of Norwech was at Caster Halle for to a cen the place as he cam to London ward. Ser, remembir your hors to have a better keper. Ser, to remembir thesse men of Scrowby, and comon with Master William Paston there in, for he partith with you both wrekke and growndage in Caster; and he wold take the accyon in his lordes name that he delyth for, it ware a good wey, be my sympil wyth. God preserve you, and kepe yow, and bryng yow home a yen to your contre.

Wretyn at Mawteby on Sen Edmundis Evyn, the Kyng, in hast,

Be your man and servant,

WILLIAM PEKOC.

808.

A.D. 1477, 30 Nov.
William Pekoc to Sir John Paston.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

There is no address on this letter, but it is endorsed, like the preceding, by Sir John Paston, "Pekok, mense Decembris, anno E iiij^{to} xvij°."

RYTH worchypfull ser, I recomand me to your good masterchep. Plesyth you, as for Pekrynges mater, I sent a frere in John Pekerynges name for the evydens; and he had an answer that if he had a busschelful of evydenss, he chuld noon have of them, for he hath set the londe in trobill, nor he cowd have no seyte of none. Also remembir your ryth of your wreke at Wynterton. Thesse arn the menes namys of Wynterton, Robert Parker of West Somerton, John Longyard of Wynterton, Thomas Goodknape of the same, Will Wrantham and John Curteys of the same Wynterton, that caryid of your severel grownd xxij. carte ful of stuffe, viij^{xx}. bowestavis, iij^{xx}. and vij. waynescottes, xiiij^{c}. clapalde,[1] v. barell ter, iiij. copil oris, and gret plante [*plenty*] of wreke of the schyppe that is worth meche mony, as ye chal understonde the trowth after this.

And as for your heryng that chuld in to Essexkes, they arn there, be the grace of God. As for your swanes, they chal be there be Our Ladys Day next comyng, I troste to God, Ho have your masterchyp in Is kepyng.

Wretyn at Mawteby, where as I am ryth werey, on Sen Andrews Day, Anno xvij° E.

Ser, if it plese your masterchep, I sold yet no barly, ner none can a bove xiiij*d.* the comb, as I sen word in a leter be John Russe; and I toke iiij*li.* in mony to bryng to your materchep. The prysse of your heryng is iiij*li.* iij*s.* iiij*d.*, besyd oder costes. Hery Cook wold

[1] *See* page 211, Note 1.

goo with your swanes, for hys yefte chuld be vj*s.* viij*d.*, and there fore he wold yeffe you his labore, be so ye payd for his costes. Ipse dixit.

Be your servaunt,

WILL. PEKOC.

809.

A.D. 1477, 18 Dec.

MARGERY PASTON TO JOHN PASTON.

[From Fenn, ii. 256.]

It is curious that after so much negotiation for the marriage of John Paston and Margery Brews, we have no record in these letters when it actually took place; but probably it was in August 1477, the last reference to it as an event not yet accomplished being on the 7th of that month (No. 802). In January 1478, John Paston talks of taking his wife to her father's house on account of her situation, and their first child was born in the course of the following summer. This letter seems to have been written in December. Fenn remarks that St. Thomas's Day might mean the translation of St. Thomas à Becket, 7th July 1478, and "Our Lady's Day" might be the Visitation of the Virgin, 2d July preceding. But this is simply impossible, because the letter is dated Thursday *before* St. Thomas's Day, which would in that case be the very same date as the Visitation of Our Lady, viz., the 2d July 1478. Besides, if the first child of John Paston and Margery was not actually born before July, the latter was certainly much nearer to her confinement then than this letter would imply. *See* No. 821 following.

Although the original of this letter is now lost, a facsimile of it was published in the *European Magazine* for March 1787, and we have carefully compared the text with this facsimile.

To myryth reverent and worscheful husbond, Jon Paston.

RYTH reverent and worscheful husbond, I recomaunde me to yow, desyryng hertyly to here of yowr wylfare, thankyng yow for the tokyn that ye sent me be Edmunde Perys, preyng yow to wete that my modyr sent to my fadyr to London for a goune cloth of mustyrddevyllers[1] to make of a goune for me; and he tolde my modyr and me wanne he was comme home, that he cargeyt yow to beyit, aftyr that he were come oute of London.

I pre yow, yf it be not bowt, that ye wyl wechesaf to byit, and sendyt home as sone as ye may, for I have no

[1] A kind of grey woollen cloth.

goune to weyre this wyntyr but my blake and my grene a lyer,[1] and that is so comerus that I ham wery to weryt.

As for the gyrdyl that my fadyr be hestyt me, I spake to hym ther of a lytyl before he zede to London last, and he seyde to me that the faute was in yow, that ze wolde not thynk ther uppe on to do makyt [*to get it made*]; but I sopose that ys not so; he seydyt but for a skwsacion. I pre yow, yf ye dor takyt uppe on yow, that ye wyl weche safe to do makyt a yens ye come home, for I hadde never more nede ther of than I have now, for I ham waxse so fetys[2] that I may not be gyrte in no barre of no gyrdyl that I have but of one. Elisabet Peverel hath leye sek xv. or xvj. wekys of the seyetyka, but sche sent my modyr word be Kate, that sche xuld come hedyr wanne God sent tyme, thoow sche xuld be crod [*wheeled*] in a barwe.

Jon of Damm was here, and my modyr dyskevwyrd me to hym, and he seyed, be hys trouth that he was not gladder of no thyng that he harde thys towlmonyth, than he was ther of.

I may no lenger leve be my crafte, I am dysscevwyrd of alle men that se me.

Of alle odyr thyngys that ye deseyreyd that I xuld sende yow word of, I have sent yow word of in a letter that I dede wryte on Ouwyr Ladyis Day[3] laste was. The Holy Trenyte have yow in Hese kepyng.

Wretyn at Oxnede, in ryth gret hast, on the Thrusday next be fore Seynt Tomas Day.[4]

I pre yow that ye wyl were the reyng with the emage of Seynt Margrete, that I sent yow for a rememraunse, tyl ye come home; ye have lefte me sweche a rememraunse, that makyth me to thynke uppe on yow bothe day and nyth wanne I wold sclepe.

Your ys, M. P.

[1] Fenn suggests *Grenouilliere* or frog-colour, but I find no authority for such a word; and I should suppose "grene" to be a separate word, though what "a lyer" is I cannot say.

[2] This word commonly signifies neat or elegant, and seems to be used here ironically.

[3] Conception of Our Lady, 8th of December.—F.

[4] 21st December, the day of St. Thomas Apostle, or perhaps 29th December, the day of St. Thomas (à Becket) the Martyr.

810.

A.D. 1478?—Abstract.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

Bill in Parliament confirming the statute of Marlborough, [52 Hen. III.], with additions touching wardships, reliefs, &c., to take effect after Easter, 1480.

[The last Parliament before 1480 met on the 16th January 1478. This measure was probably introduced or intended for discussion at that period.]

811.

A.D. 1478, 21 Jan.
John Paston to Sir John Paston.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

To my ryght worchepfull broder, Syr John Paston, Knyght.

SYR, aftyr all dutes of recomendacyon, lyeketh yow to undyrstand that I have comond with dyvers folkys of the Dwk of Suffolk now thys Crystmas and sythen, whyche let me in secret wyse have knowlage, lyek as I wrott on to yow, that he must mak a shefft for money, and that in all hast. Wherfor, syr, at the reverence of God, let it not be lachesyd, but with effect aplyed now, whyll he is in London, and my lady hys wyff also; for I assarteyn yow that C. mark wyll do more now in ther neede then ye shall peraventure do with CC. marks in tyme comyng, and thys season be not takyn. And alweys fynd the meane that my Lady of Suffolk and Syr R. Chamberleyn may be yowr gwydes in thys mater, for as for my lord, he nedyth not to be mevyd with it tyll it shold be as good as redy to the sealyng.

Syr, lyeketh yow also to remember that I told yow that Mastyr Yotton[1] had, as I cam last towardes London,

[1] Dr. Yotton was the Queen's chaplain.—F.

desyred me, by a lettre of attorney wryttyn with hys owne hand, to se th'enprowment of syche profytes as ar growing of hys chapell in Caster that ye gave hym; and at syche season as I told yow of it, ye sayd on to me that ye wold asay to make a bargayn with hym, so that ye myght have a prest to syng in Caster. Syr, me thynkes ye can not have so good a season to meve hym with it as now thys Parlement tyme, for now I thynk he shalbe awaytyng on the Quene; and also if ye myght compone with hym or he wyst what the valew wer, it wer the better, and I have promysed hym to send hym woord thys terme of the verry valew of it, and also syche mony as I cowd gader of it. Wherfor, syr, I prey yow that by the next messenger that ye can get to Pekok that ye wyll send hym woord to paye me for the lond in xxx. acres, as it hathe ben answerd before tym.

And as for tydynges here, we have none, but we wold fayne here of all your royalte at London, as of the maryage of my Lord of York,[1] and other Parlement mater; and so I prey yow that I may doo when ye have leyser.

Syr, I prey yow that Whetley may have knowlage that my broder Yelverton hathe promysed me to take hym xl*d.*; he owyth me by reason of his fermore at Caster more then that.

And, syr, as for my huswyff, I am fayne to carry hyr to se hyr fadyr and hyr frendes now thys wynter, for I trow she wyll be ought of facyon in somer. And so in my progresse fro my fadyr Brews on to Mawtby, I took Master Playter in my wey, at whoys hows I wrot thys bylle, the xxj. day of January, anno E. iiij^{ti} xvij^{o}. And I beseche God to preserve yow and yours.

Yowr, J. Paston.

Endorsed by Sir John Paston, "J. P., anno xvij°."

[1] Richard, Duke of York, second son to King Edward IV., married Ann, daughter and heir of John Mowbray, Duke of Norfolk, 15th January 1477-8. —*F.*

812.

A.D. 1478, 3 Feb.
John Paston to Margaret Paston.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

This letter appears from the contents to have been written after John Paston's marriage, at a time when his wife was staying at Swainsthorpe. He also apologises to his mother for his wife having detained two pounds out of a certain quantity of dates that he himself had sent to her from London by way of Swainsthorpe, as Margery thought them "at this season right good meat," apparently referring to her approaching confinement.

To my ryght worchepfull modyr, Margaret Paston.

RYGHT worchepfull modyr, aftyr all dwtes of humble recomendacyon, in as humble wyse as I can, I beseche yow of your dayly blyssyng. Pleasyt yow to wett that at my being now at London, lyek as ye gave me in comandment, I mevyd to Mastyr Pykenham and to Jamys Hubart for ther being at Norwyche now thys Lent, that ye myght have ther avyses in syche maters as ye let me have understandyng of. And as for Mastyr Pykenham, he is now Juge of the Archys, and also he hathe an other offyce, whyche is callyd *Auditor Causarum*, and hys besyness is so gret in bothe thes offyces that he can not tell the season when that he shall have leyser to come in to Norffolk. But I left not tyll I had gotyn Jamys Hubbart and hym togedyrs, and then I told theym your intent; and then Mastyr Pykenham told Jamys and me hys intent, and he preyed Jamys that he shold in no wyse fayle to be with yow thys Lent. Not withstandyng it was no grete nede to prey hym myche; for he told Doctore Pykenham that there was no gentyl woman in Inglond of so lytyll aqueyntance as he had with yow, that he wold be glader to be servyse on to; and myche the glader, for he purposeth fro hensforthe duryng hys lyff to be a Norffolk man, and to lye with in ii. myle of Loddon, whyche is but viij. or x. myle at

the most fro Mautby. And in conclusyon he hathe appoyntyd to awayte on yow at Norwyche the weeke nexte aftyr Mydlent Sonday, all the hole weke, if nede be, all other maters leyd apart.

Also I comend with my brodyr Sir John at London of syche maters as ye wold have amendyd in the bylle that he sent on to yow, and he stake not gretly at it.

Also, modyr, I herd whyle I was in London wher was a goodly yong woman to mary, whyche was doughter to one Seff, a merser, and she shall have CC*li.* in money to hyr maryage, and xx. mark by yer of lond aftyr the dyssease of a steppe modyr of hyrs, whyche is upon l. yer of age; and or I departyd ought of London, I spak with some of the maydys frendys, and have gotyn ther good wyllys to have hyr maryd to my brodyr Edmund. Notwithstandyng, those frendys of the maydys that I comond with avysyd me to get the good wyll of one Sturmyn, whyche is in Mastyr Pykenhamys danger[1] so myche that he is glad to please hym; and so I mevyd thys mater to Mastyr Pykenham. And incontinent he sent for Sturmyn, and desyred hys good wyll for my brodyr Edmund, and he grantyd hym hys good wylle, so that he koud get the good wyll of the remenaunt that wer executours to Seff, as well as the seyd Sturmyn was; and thusferforthe is the mater. Wherfor, modyr, we must beseche yow to helpe us forward with a lettyr fro yow to Mastyr Pykenham to remembyr hym for to handyll well and dylygently thys mater now thys Lent; and for I am aqueyntyd with your condycyons of old that ye reke not who endytyth more lettres then ye, ther for I have drawyn a note to yowr secretarys hand, Freir Perse, whyche lettre we must prey yow to send us by the berer herof, and I trust it shall not be longe fro Mastyr Pykenham.

Your doughter of Sweynsthorpp and hyr sojornaunt E. Paston recomandyth hem to yow in ther most humble wyse, lowly besechyng yow of your blyssyng;

[1] *i.e.* in his debt.

and as for my brodyr, Edmund Sweynsthorpe, for none intrete that hys ostas your doughtyr, nor I koud intrete hym, myght not kepe hym, but that he wold have bene at home with you at Mautby on Sonday last past at nyght; and as he was departyng fro hens, had we word fro Frenshes wyf that, God yeld yow, modyr, ye had govyn hym leve to dysporte hym her with us for a vij. or viij. dayes; and so the drevyll lost hys thank of us, and yet abode nevyr the lesse.

Your doughtyr sendyth yow part of syche poore stuff as I sent hyr fro London, besechyng yow to take it in gree, though it be lytyll plente that she sendyth yow. But as for datys, I wyll sey trowthe, ye have not so many by ij. pownd as wer ment on to yow, for she thynkys at thys season datys ryght good mete. What so ever it menyth, I prey God send us good tydynges, Whom I beseche to preserve yow and yours, and so send yow your myst desyred joye.

At Sweynsthorp, on Ashe Wednysday.

Your sone and humble servaunt,

J. Paston.

Modyr, pleasit yow to remember that ye had need to be at Norwyche v. or vj. dayes befor that Jamys Hubbart and your consayll shall be ther with yow, for to look up your evydence and all other thynges redy. Also if ye thynk that thys bylle that I send yow herwith be good i now to send to Doctore Pykenham, ye may close up the same, and send it sealyd to me ayen, and I shall convey it forthe to hym.

813.

A.D. 1478, 21 March.

Constance Reynforth to Sir John Paston.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

The writer of this letter was Sir John Paston's mistress, by whom he left a natural daughter. The date is ascertained by an endorsement in Sir John's own hand, "Custaunce Raynford, anno xviij°."

[*To Sir*] *John Paston, Chevalier, be this byll delyverid in hast.*

RYTH reverent and worchepful ser, I recomend me on to yowr masterschep, effectually desyryng to here of yowr welfare and contynual prosperite; and if it ples yow to here of my pour estat, I was in good hele at the makyng of this sympyll byll. Towchyng the cause of my wrytyng to yowr masterschep is, for as moche as I poyntyd with yow to a be with yow be the day that ye asynyd me of, the wheche, with outh yowr good supportacyon, I con not well have myn entent, withouth it ple yow to send oon of yowr men to me, and I psal provyd a letter in myn unkyll name, the wheche he psall delyver to my cosyn as he were myn unkyll masagear, and be this mene I wyll come at yowr request; for my cosyn wold I psuld not depart with hym, with outh it were to myn unkyll servyse; hoys and all others I refuse for yowres, yf my sympul servyse may be to yowr plesure. And of an answer herof I beseke yow be the brynger of my byll, and I wyll conforme me to yowr en tente, be the grace of Good, the Wheche mot preserve yow at all oures.

Wretyn at Cobham, the xxj. day of Marche.

By yowr woman and sevnt,

CONSTANS REYNYFORTH.

814.

A.D. 1478, 5 May.
SIR JOHN PASTON TO JOHN PASTON.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

To John Paston, Esquier, ande to Osberne Berney, and to everyche off them, be thys letter delyveryd.

I Recomaunde me to yowe, and thanke yow oft yowr labor that ye hadde at Heylesdon and Drayton in seyng the woodys there. And it is

soo heer that Ric. Ferore seyde, that he repentyd hym that evyr he dalte with any woode theer, and iff I hadde sente hym but the leest chylde that I hadde to have warnyd hym to leve he wolde notte have dalte therwyth; and he ffonde noe comfforte in the Chancery, but that he is lyke to contente me for the harmes and hurte that is doone, and moore ovyr he hathe an instrucyon that he shall ffelle noo moore.

Item, wheer as he desyryd me to be freendly to hym, I dalte so with hym, that I trowe he wylle reporte that I seyde and dalte moore cortesly with hym than he demyd that I wolde doo. Yitt for alle in convenyences that myght ffalle, I wolde be gladde to have a weell stomakyd felawe that wolde for my sake everye daye see the seyde woodes of Heylesdon and Drayton, and to knowe iff any weer fellyd heer afftre; and iffe there be any fellyd syns that Whetley was theer, and I can preve it by wytnesse, I sholde have better recompence for every tree than iiij. trees weer worthe.

Item, it is so that he hathe answeryd to my bille, wheryn he seythe that he never knywe byfor the subpena delyveryd hym that I hadde any clayme or entrest in the maner off Heylesdon, but that it was peasyble my Lordys off Suffolk. Wherffor I suppose that there be many men in Norwyche that comonyd with hym off the byenge off that woode ere evyr he made hys fulle bergayne, and per aventure some freendys off hys gave hym warnyng theroff, and off myn entrest. Iff any suche credyble mane that hadde hadde any suche langage to hym, or in hys companye, or than he bargayned, or any man that he laboryd to be halffe marchant or byer with hym, ar any man that refusyd to bye the seyd woode bycawse off myn entrest in the presence of Feror, any suche credyble man maye, iff he wyll, wytnesse ther in with me, or that dare avowe it, sholde be to me a remedy off alle that is fellyd. I praye yow, if ye can here any suche, that ye will in the presence off them make a bylle of remembraunce theroff, and off ther sayng, so that they maye her afftre wytnesse in the mater,

Neverthelesse, trowthe it is that he hadde knowleche ther off i nowe, and soo hadde every man off hys havore [*substance*] in Norwych, I dowt nott; and as for hym, I am sure he hadde knowleche, for so moche as he desyryd at hys bargayn to have a sywerte to be savyd harmeles ageyn me,whyche was grawntyd hym butt nott executyd. No mor, butt I hope with Goddys grace to have hastely goode remedy for the hole maner, and off Drayton therto, and alle the remenaunte.

Wretyn a London, the v. daye off Maye, anno E. iiij^{ti} xviij^{o}.

815.

A.D. 1478, 13 May.
Sir John Paston to Margaret Paston.

[From Fenn, ii. 260.]

To my ryght worshypfull modre, Margret Paston, be thys delyvered.

PLEASE it yow to weete, that wher as I entendyd to have ben at home thys Mydsomer, and purposyd with yowr goode helpe to have bygonne uppon my ffadrys tombe, so that it myght have ben endyd thys somyr; it is soo, that ffor suche cawsys as ar nowe bygunne by twyen my Lorde off Suffolk and me, ffor the manerys off Heylesdon, Drayton, &c., for whyche materis I most nedys be heer thys nexte terme; therffor I deme it woll be afftr Mydsomer, er than I can see yow.

Please it yow also to weete that I comonyd with Master Pykenham to weete iff he wolde bye the clothe off golde,for soo moche as he desyryd ons to have bowte it, and he offryd me ons xx. marke therffor, neverthelesse it coste me xxiiij*li.*; yit nowe, when that I spake to hym ther off, he refusyd to bye it, and seyde that he hadde nowe so many chargys that he maye nott.

Butt it is soo that the Kynge dothe mak sertayne copys and vestymentys off like clothe, whyche he entendyth to gyve to the Coledge at Foodryngdre, wher my lorde hys ffadre is nowe buryed, and he byethe at a grete pryce.

I comonyd with the vestment maker ffor to helpe me fforthe with xij. yerds, and he hathe grauntyd me to doo, as Whetleye can telle yow; wherffor, iff it please yow that it be bystowyd ffor to make a towmbe ffor my ffadre at Bromholme, iff ye lyke to sende it hyddr, iffe it be solde I undretake or Mychelmesse, that ther shalle be a tombe, and somwhatt ellys ovyr my ffadris grave, on whoys sowle God have mersye, that ther shall noone be lyke it in Norffolk; and as ye shalle be gladde herafftr to see it; and God sende me leyser that I maye come home, and iff I doo not, yit the monye shall be putte to noon other use, butt kepyd by some that ye trust, tylle that it may be bystowyd acordyng as is above wretyn, and ellys I gyve yow cawse nevyr to truste me whylle ye and I lyve. When I was last with yow, ye grauntyd that the seyde clothe of golde sholde be bywaryd [*spent*] abowte thys werke, that is above wretyn, whyche iff ye wylle perfforme, I undretake that ther shalle be suche a towmbe as ye shalle be pleasyd at, thowgh it cost me xx. marke off myn owne purse besyde, iff I ons sette uppon it.

No mor, but I beseche Goode have yow in Hys kepyng.

Wretyn at London, the Wednysdaye in Whyghtsonweke, anno E. iiij^{ti} xviij^{o}.

Please it yow to sende me worde by Whatley ofl yowr plesyr her in.

By your Sone,

JOHN PASTON, K.

816.

A.D. 1478, 19 May.
Walter Paston to Margaret Paston.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

This letter is printed in Fenn's fifth volume, and dated by him in 1478. I do not know on what evidence he assigns this particular year to it, except that, as he tells us elsewhere, Walter Paston took a degree at Oxford, and died in 1479.

To his worchypfull moder, Margaret Paston, dwellyng in Mawtby, be this letter delyveryd in hast.

RYTGH reverent and worchypfull moder, I recomaund me on to yowr good moderchypp, besechyng yow to geve me yowr dayly benedyccyon, desyeryng hartyly to heer of yowr prosperyte, whych God preserve to Hys plesure, and to yowr hartys desyyr, &c. I marvel soor that yow sent me noo word of the letter wych I sent to yow by Master Wylliam Brown at Ester. I sent yow word that tym that I xold send yow myn exspenses partyculerly; but as at thys tym the berar her of had a letter sodenly that he xold come home, and there fore I kowd have no leysur to send them yow on that wys; and there fore I xall wryt to yow in thys letter the hool som of my exspenses sythyns I was with yow tyll Ester last paste, and also the reseytys, rekenyng the xx*s.* that I had of yow to Oxon wardys with the Buschopys fyndyng.

The hool some of reseytys ys v*li.* xvij*s.* vj*d.*, and the holl some of exspenses ys vj*li.* v*s.* v*d.* ob. qua., and that comth over the reseytys in my exspenses I have borowd of Master Edmund, and yt drawyth to viij*s.* And yet I recone none exspenses sythyns Ester. But as for them, they be non grete; and therfor I besech yow to send me mony by Syr Richard Cotman, brynger of thys letter, or ellys by the next masenger that yow kan have to me.

I besech yow that he that I sent by thys letter to yow may have good scher, yf he brynge yt hym selfe, as he telth me that he woll, for he ys a good lover of myn. Master Edmund Alyard recomaund hym specyaly to yow, and to all my brodyrn and systyrs, and to all yowr howshold; and I besech yow that I may be recomaundyd to all them also, and specyaly to my brodyr John the yonger. No more to yow at thys tym, but Allmythy Jhesus have yow in Hys kepyng. Amen.

Wretyn at Oxonforth, on Seynt Dunstonys Day and the xix. day of May.

By your sonn and scoler,

WALTER PASTON.

817.

A.D. 1478, 20 May.

J. WHETLEY TO SIR JOHN PASTON.

[From Paston MSS. B.M.]

To the ryght worsh[yp] full Sir John Paston, Knyght, loged at the sygne off the George at Powlys Wharff, in London, be thys delyvered in hast.

PLEAS it your meastershep to understond the dealyng of every thyng, the wych I was charged with at my departyng frome your measterchep.

Fyrst, your suppena to Denton was delyvered by me on Trenite Sondaye, in hys parych cherch, at Matens tyme, be ffor the substans of the parych; and as for Drayton wod, it is not all down yet, but it drawes fast toward. I have the names of all the mynestres off and in that wod, and more schall know or I come, yf ther be any more dealyng, &c.

And as for Haylysdon, my Lord of Suffolk was ther on Wedensday in Whytson Weke, and ther dined, and

drew a stew and toke gret plente of fych; yet hath he left you a pyke or ij., agayn ye come, the wych wold be gret comford to all your frendes, and dyscomford to your enmys; for at hys beyng ther that daye ther was never no man that playd Herrod in Corpus Crysty[1] play better and more agreable to hys pageaunt then he dud. But ye schall understond that it was after none, and the weder hot, and he so feble for sekenes that hys legges wold not bere hyme, but ther was ij. men had gret payn to kepe hym on hys fete; and ther ye were juged. Som sayd "Sley;" some sayd "Put hym in preson." And forth com my lord, and he wold met you with a spere, and have none other mendes for the troble at ye have put hym to but your hart blod, and that will he gayt with hys owen handes; for and ye have Haylesdon and Dreton, ye schall have hys lyff with it. And so he comford your enmys with that word that thay have dealed and dealeth with the wod, and most pryncepall nowe is Nycolesse Ovye. For as for Ferrer,[2] the Meare, he delys not with owt it be under covert; for it is sayd that he be soght my lord that he myght have other sygnementes for hys money that he had payd, for playnly he wold deall no mor with the wod. And so my lord hath set in the Bayly of Cossay, and all is doon in hys name; and as for hys servauntes, thay dayly thret my measter your brother and me to slay for comyng of ther lordes ground, and thay say that we made an entre; and thay beth answerd as ye comaunded me, for many a gret chalaunge make thay to Mester John, both Measter Wodhowse, Wysman, with other dyveres that I know not ther names; but he holdeth hys own that thay gayt no grownd of hym. And thys he lettes thaym knowe that if thay bete hym or any of hys, thay schall aby vj. for on, and so thay deall not but with ther tonges; and as yet, syth Ferrer was at

[1] Corpus Christi Day, the Thursday after the Octave of Whitsuntide, was famous for the acting of Mysteries, particularly at Chester.—F.

[2] Richard Farrer, Farrour, or Ferriour, was five times Mayor of Norwich, namely, in 1473, 1478, 1483, 1493, and 1498.—F.

London, there passes not iij. acres of wod down but thay cary fast for fere of rayn, &c.

Also, sir, I trust to bryng or send hastely the cloth off gold, for it hath ben largely tempted; but as yet I have none playn answer, but put in hope. Also I have spoken with Popy for your money, and delyvered hym your letter, the wych, as he sayth, is a straunge thyng to hym, for, as I understond, he that owght thys deute was uncle to thys yong man, and he sayth that hys fader was never exsecutor to hym, nor never mynestred; and I told hym howe that hys fader was bound for the same deute, in so mech and my measter wold have forgevyn part of the same deute, he wold have payed it; and so he will be at London thys terme, and speke with you, and thys is hys answer.

Morover Wyllyam Worsestre mevyd unto me of onne Sir Wylliam Bokkyng, exsecutor and brother to John Bokkyng, the whych was one of Sir John Fastolf hys clerkes, the whych mater I knewe not, nor had no comaundement be you to deall therin, and so I told hym. Never the lesse he sayd that ye promysed hym to have sent your will to have bene done in that mater by me, and so he troweth that it was owt of your mynd at my departyng. Yff so be that ye will any thyng to be doon by me or I come to yow in that mater, let me have knowlege schortly, for I thynk to be with yow in the weke folowyng aftyr thys wryten, with owt I may have more comford of money then I have yet.

And as for my meastres, your moder hath ben gretly deseased and so seke that she wened to have dyed, and hath made her wyll,[1] the wyche ye shall understond more when I come, for ther is every man for hym selff. I know not the sercomstance of every thyng as yet, and therfor I writ no more to you therin, but I am promysed to know or I depart from thens.

[1] The will now made by Margaret Paston was afterwards cancelled, as that which was proved after her death in 1484 was dated on the 4th of February 1482, 21 E. IV.

Also I spake with William Barker, and he sayth that I shall have the stuff or I depart, or els the monye agayn that he hade of Wylliam Pecoke.

Also, sir, as for your lond be syd Bromholm that ye had of Bakton, it hath layn un ocupyed syth ye were ther.

Moreover, my Lord of Suffolk[1] is remevyd in to Suffolk the morow after that he had bene at Haylesdon, and my lady purposed to remeff after on thys day, Corpus Crysty Evyn, by the grace of Jesu, Who preserve yow ever in worchep.

Wryten at Norwych, on Wedensday Corpus Crysty Evyn, anno E. iiij^{ti} xviij^{o}.

Item, as for the knowleg that Ferror denyed by hys othe that he knew never no tytle nor entrest that ye had in and to Haylsdon and Dreton, as yet we can not know; but thys thay will record all that were at the delyveraunce of the wryt that he sayd my lord had promysed to save hym harmles, in so mech that Wysman was bownd to Ferrour to save hym harmeles, and he had for bryngyng that mater about, that Ferrour shuld have the wod, xx*s*.

Your servaunt,

J. WHETLEY.

818.

A.D. 1478, 27 May.

MARGARET PASTON TO SIR JOHN PASTON.

[From Fenn, ii. 264.]

To the ryght worshypfull Sir John Paston, Knyght.

[1] John de la Pole, Duke of Suffolk, &c., married Elizabeth, third daughter of Richard Plantagenet, Duke of York, and sister of Edward IV. They both lie buried at Wingfield, in Suffolk.—F.

Greet yow well and send yow Goddys blyssyng and myn, latyng yow wete that I have sent yow be Whetele the clothe of golde, chargyng yow that it be not solde to none other use than to the performyng of yowyr fadyrs toombe, as ye send me worde in wrytyng; yf ye sell yt to any othyr use, by my trowthe, I shall never trost yow wyll I leve.

Remembyr that yt coste me xx^{ti} marke the pleggyng owte of yt, and yf I wher not glad to se that made, I wolde not departe from it. Remembyr yow what charge I have had with yow of late, whyche wyl not be for my ease this ij. yer; whan ye may better, I trost ye whyll remembyr yt.

My cosyn Clere dothe as meche coste at Bromhom as whylle drawe an C*li.* upon the deskys in the quere, and in othyr places, and Heydon in lyke whyse, and yf ther shulde no thyng be don for yowyr fadyr, yt wolde be to gret a schame for us alle, and in cheffe to se hym lye as he dothe.

Also as I understond that my cosyn Robert Clere thynkyth gret on kyndenesse in delyng wyth hym of Pecoke, for certeyn pasture that ye[1] grawntyd hym to have, and Pecoke hath letyn it to othyr, suche as he lyste to lete yt to, not withstondyng my cosyn hath leyd the pastur with hys catell, and Pecok hathe strenyd them.

I thynk thys delyng is not as yt shulde be. I wolde that iche of yow shulde do for other, and leve as kynnysmen and frendys; for suche servawnts my make trobyll by twyxe yow, wheche wher a ageynste cortesy, so nyhe newbors as ye be, he is a man of substance and worchyp, and so wylle be takyn in thys schyr; and I wer lothe that ye shulde lese the good wylle of suche as may do for yow.

Item, wher as ye have begonne your cleyme in Heylysdon and Drayton, I pray God send yow good spede and foderance in yit. Ye have as good a season

[1] Fenn's literal text reads "that be grawntyd," which seems to be an error. In the modern transcript it is "that ye granted"

as ye wulde wysche, consyderyng that yowyr adversary standys not in best favyr with the Kynge.

Also ye have the voyse in this contre, that ye may do as meche with the Kyng, as any knygth that ys longyng to the corte. Yf yt be so, I pray God contynu yt; and also that ye shuld mary rygth nygth of the Qwenys blood; qwat sche ys we are not as certeyn, but yf yt be so, that yowyr lond schuld come agayne by the reason of yowyr maryage, and to be sett in rest, at the reverence of God for sake yt nowt, yf ye can fynde in yowyr harte to love hyr, so that sche be suche one as ye can thynke to have issu by, or ellys, by my trowthe, I had rather that ye never maryd in yowyr lyffe.

Also, yf yowyr mater take not now to good effecte, ye and all yowyr frendys may repent them that ye began yowyr cleyme, with owte that ye have take suche a suyr wey, as may be to yowyr intent, for many inconvenyens that may falle ther of. God send yow good spede in all yowyr maters.

Wretyn at Mawteby, the day after Seynt Austyn in May, the xviij. yer of Kyng Edward the iiij^te.

Be yowyr Modyr.

819.

A.D. 1478, 31 July.
Oxnead Parsonage.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

The date of this document is shown by the following mutilated endorsement: "..... parsonage of Oxnede made xxxj. Julii, Ao xviij^o E. iiij^ti." The first words were doubtless "The value of," or something to that effect; but the paper is mutilated.

The comodytys off the parsonage and the valew off the benyfyce off Oxned.

MY new parson off Oxned, whan he is instute and inducte, at the first entre in to the chyrch and benefyce off Oxned, must off awncyent custom long contynued with in the

dyosesse off Norwyche, pay to the byschopp off Norwych, for the first frutes off the seyd benefyce, xiiij. marke; for wyche xiiij. marke, iff the new parson be wytty and have favour a bowt the Byschops offycers, he schall have days off paiment to pay the seid xiiij. marke in xiiij. yere, that is, a marke a yere, till it be payd; so that he can fynd suffycyent mene to be bownd to the Bischopp be obligacion to kepe his days off payment.

And the chyrch is but litill, and is resonable plesaunt, and reparyd. [And the] dwellyng place of the parsonage is a yoynyng to the . . . . . d well howsyd and reparyd, hall, chamberes, barn, doffhowse, and all howsys off offyce.

And it hath a doffhowse worth a yere, xiiij*s.* iiij*d.*

And it hath ij. large gardens with frute, and is yonynge to the place and chyrch yard, wher off the frute is worth yerly, xxvj*s.* viij*d.*

And ther longith to the seid parsonage in fre lond, arable, pasture and medowe ayonyng to the seid parsonage, xxij^{ti} acre or more, wher off every acre is worth ij*s.*; to latyn [*to let*], iij*li.* iiij*d.*

And William Paston, Justice, qwan he[1] cam fyrst to dwell in the maner of Oxned, paid to the parson that was than for the corne growyng on the parsonage londys and for the tythynges, ondely but in corne whan it was inned in to the barn, xxiiij*li.*

And the same yere the parson had all the awterage and oder profytes be syde the seyd xxiiij*li.*

It is yerly worth, as the world goth now, x*li.*

And it is butt an esy cure to kepe, ffor ther ar natt past xx^{ti} persons to be yerly howselyd.[2]

The parsonage stant be a fresh ryver syde.

And ther is a good markett town callyd Alysham, within ij. myle off the parsonage.

[1] "William Paston, Justice, qwan he." These words are a correction, interlined, in the hand of William Paston, the uncle of Sir John. The text stood originally, "And my hosbond and I whan we."

[2] *i.e.* to receive the sacrament.

And the cyte of Norwych is within vj. myle off the parsonage.

And the see is within x. myle off the parsonage.

And if a parson cam now, and warr presentyd, institute, and inducte, he shuld have by the lawe all the cropp that is now growyng, that was eryd and sowyn off the old parsons cost, growyng on the parsonage landes now, as his own good, and all the tyth off all maner graynys off the maner, londes, and tenantes londes,[1] towardes his charges off the fyrst frutes. And if it ware innyd it war (the crop now growyng)[2] worth his first frutes.

[3] He that hath this benefice, and he were a pore man, myght have lycens to have service be side.

The Beshop ought not to have the valew of this cropp for the arrerages of the fyrst fruttes that Sir Thomas Everard, last parson of Oxned, oght to the Bysshop whan he died, for the said Sir Thomas Everard was bond to the Bisshop in an obligacion for the said frutes, and the said Sir Thomas Everard, for to defraude the Bysshop and oder men that he owid mony to, gaff a way his gooddes to serten persons, qwech persons toke a way the said goodes, and also durres and wyndow of the said parsonage; and it is though that both the Bysshop and the patron myght take accions a gayns the said persons.

820.

A.D. 1478, 5 Aug.—Abstract.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

Presentation by Agnes Paston of Richard Lyncoln, S.T.P., to the parish church of Oxened, *vice* Thomas Everard, deceased.

London, 5 Aug. 1478.

[1] *Off the maner londes and tenantes londes.* These words are interlined by William Paston.

[2] This parenthesis is an interlineation by William Paston.

[3] What follows is in William Paston's hand.

821.

A.D. 1478, 25 Aug.
Sir John Paston to John Paston.

[From Fenn, ii. 270.]

To John Paston, Esquyer, be thys lettre delyverryd, or to my mestresse, hys wyffe, at Norwych, to delyver to hym.

BROTHER John, I recomaund me to yow, and I thanke God, my sustr yowr wyffe, and yow, off my ffayr nevywe Crystofore, whyche I undrestande ye have, wher off I ame ryght gladde, and I praye God sende yow manye, if it be Hys plesyr; nevertheless ye be nott kynde, that ye sende me no wetyng ther off; I hadde knowlege by ffootemen, or ever ye kowde ffynde any messenger on horsbak to brynge me worde theroff.

Sir, it is soo, that the Duke off Bokyngham shall come on pilgrymage to Walsyngham, and so to Bokenham Castell to my lady hys sustr;[1] and then it is supposyd that he shalle to my Lady off Norffolk.[2] And myn oncle William comythe with hym; and he tellyth me, that ther is like to be troble in the maner off Oxenhed; wherffor I praye yow take hedde lesse that the Duke off Suffolk councell pley therwith now at the vacacion[3] off the beneffyse, as they ded with the beneffice off Drayton, whyche by the helpe off Mr. John Salett and Donne hys man, ther was a qweste made by the seyde Donne, that ffownde that the Duke off Suffolk was verrye patrone, whyche was ffalse, yitt they ded it ffor an evydence; but nowe iff any suche pratte scholde be

[1] Joan, sister to Henry, Duke of Buckingham, was the second wife of Sir William Knevet, Knight, of Bokenham Castle, in Norfolk.—F.

[2] Elizabeth, widow of John Mowbray, Duke of Norfolk.—F.

[3] Agnes Paston, grandmother to Sir John, presented Thomas Everard to the Rectory of Oxnead in 1475, and in 1479 she again presented William Barthulmew, so that the Duke of Suffolk either did not attempt to disturb her right; or at least did not succeed, if he endeavoured to do it.—F. It will be seen by No. 820 that before presenting William Barthulmew she presented Dr. Richard Lyncoln.

laboryd, it is I hope in bettr case, ffor suche a thynge most needs be ffownde byffor Master John Smyth, whyche is owr olde ffreende; wherffor I praye yow labor hym, that, iff neede bee, he maye doo use a ffreends torne therin.

Item, bothe ye and I most neds take thys mater as owr owne, and it weer ffor noon other cawse butt ffor owr goode grawnt dames sake; neverthelesse ye woote well, thatt ther is an other entresse longyng to usse afftr her dyscease; iffe ther be any suche thynge begune ther by suche a fryer or prest, as it is seyde, I mervayle that ye sente me no worde ther off; butt ye have nowe wyffe and chyld, and so moche to kar ffor, thatt ye fforgete me.

As for tydyngs her, I her telle that my cosyn Sir Robert Chamberleyn hathe entryd the maner of Scolton uppon yowr bedffelawe[1] Conyerse, wheroff ye sende me no worde.

Item, yonge William Brandon is in warde and arestyd ffor thatt he scholde have by fforce ravysshyd and swyvyd an olde jentylwoman, and yitt was nott therwith easyd, butt swyvyd hyr oldest dowtr, and than wolde have swyvyd the other sustr bothe; wherffor men sey ffowle off hym, and that he wolde ete the henne and alle hyr chekynnys; and som seye that the Kynge entendyth to sitte uppon hym, and men seye he is lyke to be hangyd, ffor he hathe weddyd a wedowe.

Item, as ffor the pagent that men sey that the Erle off Oxenforde[2] hathe pleyid atte Hammys, I suppose ye have herde theroff; itt is so longe agoo, I was nott in thys contre when the tydyngs come, therfor I sent yow no worde theroff.

Butt ffor conclusion, as I her seye, he lyepe the wallys, and wente to the dyke, and in to the dyke to

[1] A word at this time, implying a friend, or intimate acquaintance, who really slept in the same bed.—*See* Steevens' Shakspeare, Henry V. Act II. Sc. II.—F.

[2] John de Vere, Earl of Oxford, had been for several years a prisoner in the Castle of Hammes, in Picardy. He became a favourite of Henry VII. and died in the reign of Henry VIII.—F.

the chynne; to whatt entent I can nott telle; some sey, to stele awey, and some thynke he wolde have drownyd hymselffe, and so it is demyd.

No mor, but I ame nott sertayne whether I shall come home in haste or nott.

Wretyn at London, the daye nexte Seynt Bartelmewe,[1] anno E. iiij^ti xviij^o. JOHN PASTON, K.

822.

A.D. 1478. 9 Oct.—ABSTRACT.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

WILLIAM PASTON TO NICHOLAS GOLDEWELL.

Spoke to him on Sunday about a clerk presented by William Paston's mother to the Church of Oxnead, and not admitted, though the presentation was delivered to Master John Bulman, my lord's deputy, within the time limited by law. Requests him to get the Bishop to do him justice. The living is of small value, and the delay can be of little benefit to my lord. Desires an answer by the bearer, Sir William Upgate, Vicar of Castre.

Norwich, 9 Oct.

[The MS. is a corrected draft partly in William Paston's own hand, endorsed "The copy of a lettre to Mr. Nicholas Goldewell, broder to the Busshopp of Norwich, ix° Octobris, anno xviij° E. iiij^ti, by Sir Willian Ubgate, Vicar of Castre."]

823.

A.D. 1478, 17 Oct.—ABSTRACT.

[From Paston MSS. B.M.]

WILLIAM PASTON TO WILLIAM POPE OF BACTON.

Cannot be at the Court at Paston on Monday next. Bids him warn the tenants to keep the Court on Friday instead, and to bring their rents, for he will be there himself. He is also to warn the tenants of Bakton to-morrow openly in the church of the said

[1] St. Bartholomew's Day is the 24th August. "The day *next* St. Bartholomew" should be the 25th, unless the writer meant to say "next before."

Court to be kept on Friday next; also the tenants of Swaffeld, Mundesley,[1] Edyngthorpe, and Wytton.

Norwich, Saturday after St. Edward,[2] the —— October.

[The MS. is a draft with corrections in the handwriting of William Paston, endorsed—"The copy of a lettre to William Pope of Bacton, the xvij. day of Octobre, anno xviij° E. iiij^ti, by William Dam of Rughton."]

824.

A.D. 1478, 7 Nov.

William Paston, Junior, to John Paston.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

William Paston, the writer of this letter, was a younger son of old John Paston, and brother of the John Paston to whom the letter is addressed. He was born, as Fenn tells us, in 1459, and it will be seen by what is said of him in Letter 732 that he could not possibly be older. He was now at Eton finishing his education, and we have a letter from him written there on the 23d of February 1479, which gives good reason for attributing this to the November immediately before.

To hys worchepful brodyr, ohn Paston, be thys delyvered in hast.

RYGHT reverent and worchepful brodyr, I recomaunde me on to yow, desyrynge to here of yowre welfare and prosperite; letynge yow wete that I have resevyd of Alwedyr a lettyr and a nobyll in gowlde therin. Ferthermor my creansyr [*creditor*], Mayster Thomas,[3] hertely recomandyd hym to yow, and he praythe yow to sende hym sum mony for my comons; for he seythe ye be xx^ti^s. in hys dette, for a monthe was to pay for when he had mony laste.

Also I beseche yow to sende me a hose clothe, one for the halydays of sum colore, and a nothyr for the workyng days, how corse so ever it be it makyth no matyr; and a stomechere, and ij. schyrtes, and a peyer of sclyppers. And if it lyke yow that I may come with Alwedyr be watyr, and sporte me with yow at

[1] This name is very ill written, and looks more like "Maxsley;" but Mundesley is the only place in the neighbourhood that seems at all probable.

[2] Translation of St. Edward the Confessor, 13th October. The Saturday after it in 1478 was the 17th, but the writer has left only a blank for the day

[3] Thomas Stevenson.—*See* Letter 827 *post*.

London a day or ij. thys terme tyme, than ye may let all thys be tyl the tyme that I come, and than I wol telle you when I schall be redy to come from Eton, by the grace of God, Whom have yow in Hys kepyng.

Wretyn the Saturday next aftyr All Halown Day, with the hand of your brodyr,

WYLLIAM PASTON.

825.

A.D. 1479, 18 Jan.

ERRANDS TO MARLINGFORD.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

This is a paper of memoranda by William Paston, partly in his own handwriting, endorsed—"Erandes to Marlyngford, the xvij. day of Januar, anno xviij°, wer off a copy was delyvered at Sent Edmundes the same d[ay]."

DO[1] Gerald of Marlingford come to me, and know were he ys become; in qw[at] place he hydyth hym, he dothe but distroyh hym selff.

Do on Steward [of] Colton, a tenaunte of Marlingford, come to me.

Do[1] Sir John Chapman,[2] parson of Oure Ladies Chyrche, send hider the bill of rekenyng of Richard Hervy, shewyng what stokke was delivered be Richard Hervy to Harry Hervy, and also a bille what costes that Richard H[ervy] . . . . of at that tyme.[3]

Do[1] John Brigg come to me and bryng me suyrte for hys dette, and know qwat wey the parson off Melton takyth with hym.

. . de the par[sone] off Melton come to me to Norwych, for tell [him that] and he come nat hastely he schall nat fynd me here.

Item, pray the parson off Melton to call up on the parteculer tenauntes off Melton that have had parteculer fermys fro Michaelmas xvij. till Michaelmas xviij. to pay ther fermys.

[1] "Do," *i.e.* cause. [2] He was rector of St. Mary's Church, Melton.
[3] This paragraph is crossed out in the MS.

826.

A.D. 1479, 2 Feb.
William Pykenham to Margaret Paston.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

Walter Paston, to whom this letter refers, died in August 1479. This letter was probably written in the beginning of the same year. The date certainly cannot be 1478, if No. 812 has been assigned to the right year, for it will be seen that the writer was then in London, and so much occupied that he had little prospect of visiting Norfolk for some time.

To my Mastresse, M[argaret Paston], att Norwiche.

MY worschypfull mastresse, I recomende me un to yow, and thanke yow of yowr approvyd ensewryd gyudenesse evermore shewde, and so I pray yow to contenew. I have resyvyd yowr letter, and undrestonde yowr desyre, wyche ys ageyns the lawe for three causys. Oon ys, for yowr son Watre ys nott tonsewryd, in modre tunge callyd Benett; a nodre cause, he ys not xxiiij. yeer of aghe, wyche ys requiryd complete; the thyrde, ye owte [*he ought*] of ryzte to be preyst within dwelmothe after that he ys parson, wyth owte so were he hadd a dyspensacion fro Rome be owre Holy Fadre the Pope, wyche I am certen can not be hadde. Therfor I present not yowr desyre un to my lorde,[1] lest ye [*he*] wolde have takyn yt to a dysplesur, or else to take a grete sympylnesse in yowr desyre, wyche shulde cause hym, in suche matres as xall fortune yow to spede with hym a nodre tyme, to shew un to yow the rigur of the lawe, wyche I wolde be lothe; therfor present a nodre man abyll. Haske consell of Mr. John Smythe, and sease of yowr desyre in thysse partey, for yt ys not goodely nether Goddely; and lete not yowr desyre be knowyn, aftyr my avyse. Be not wrothe, thowe I sende un to yow

[1] James Goldwell was consecrated by Pope Sextus IV. Bishop of Norwich in 1472. He resided much at his manor of Hoxne, where he died in 1498. —F.

thusse playnyly in the matre; for I wolde ye dede as wele as any woman in Norfolke, [that ys, wyth rygth],[1] to yowr honor, prosperite, an to the plesur of Godde, with yowre and all yowres, Ho have yow in Hysse blessyd kepyng.

From Hoxne on Candylmasse Day.

WILLIAM PYKYNHAM.[2]

I sende yow yowr presente agen in the boxe.

827.

A.D. 1479, 23 Feb.

WILLIAM PASTON, JUNIOR, TO JOHN PASTON.

[From Fenn, i. 296.]

This letter was written on the 23d of February, and the Monday following the date was the first Monday of Lent. These particulars prove the letter to have been written in 1479, when William Paston was between nineteen and twenty years of age.

To his worchepfull broder, ohn Paston, be thys delyvered in hast.

RYGHT reverent and worchepfull broder, after all dewtes of recomendacion, I recomaunde me to yow, desyryng to here of your prosperite and welfare, whych I pray God long to contynew to Hys plesore, and to your herts desyr; letyng yow wete that I receyved a letter from yow, in the whyche letter was viij*d.* with the whyche I schuld bye a peyer of slyppers.

Ferthermor certyfying yow, as for the xiij*s.* iiij*d.* whyche ye sende by a jentylmannys man, for my borde, cawlyd Thomas Newton, was delyvered to myn hostes,

[1] These words are struck through with the pen.

[2] William de Pykenham became Chancellor of Norwich and Archdeacon of Suffolk in 1471, and was also some time Rector of Hadleigh in Suffolk, where he built the grand gate or tower before the parsonage. He died in 1497 —F.

and soo to my creancer [*creditor*], Mr. Thomas Stevenson; and he hertely recomended hym to yow.

Also ye sende me worde in the letter of xij*li.* fyggs and viij*li.* reysons. I have them not delyvered, but I dowte not I shal have, for Alwedyr tolde me of them, and he seyde that they came aftyr in an other barge.

And as for the yong jentylwoman, I wol certyfye yow how I fryste felle in qweyntaince with hyr. Hir ffader is dede; ther be ij. systers of them; the elder is just weddyd; at the whych weddyng I was with myn hostes, and also desyryd by the jentylman hym selfe, cawlyd Wylliam Swanne, whos dwyllynge is in Eton.

So it fortuned that myne hostes reportyd on me odyrwyse than I was wordy; so that hyr moder comaundyd hyr to make me good chere, and soo in good feythe sche ded. Sche is not a bydynge ther sche is now; hyr dwellyng is in London; but hyr moder and sch come to a place of hyrs v. myle from Eton, were the weddyng was, for because it was nye to the jentylman whych weddyd hyr dowtyr. And on Monday next comynge, that is to sey, the fyrst Monday of Clene Lente, hyr moder and sche wyl goo to the pardon at Schene, and soo forthe to London, and ther to abyde in a place of hyrs in Bowe Chyrche Yerde; and if it plese yow to inquere of hyr, hyr modyrs name is Mestres Alborow, the name of the dowtyr is Margarete Alborow, the age of hyr is be all lykelyod xviij. or xix. yere at the fertheste. And as for the mony and plate, it is redy when soo ever sche were weddyd; but as for the lyvelod, I trow not tyll after hyr modyrs desese, but I can not telle yow, for very certeyn, but yow may know by inqueryng. And as for hyr bewte, juge yow that when ye see hyr, yf so be that ye take the laubore, and specialy beolde hyr handys, for and if it be as it is tolde me, sche is dysposyd to be thyke.

And as for my comynge from Eton, I lake no thynge but wersyfyynge, whyche I troste to have with a lytyll contynuance.

Quare, Quomodo non valet hora, valet mora,
Unde di' [*dictum*, vel *deductum?*]
Arbore jam videas exemplum. Non die possunt,
Omnia suppleri; sed tamen illa mora.

And thes too verse afore seyde be of myn own makyng.

No more to yow at thys tyme, but God have yow in Hys kepyng.

Wretyn at Eton the Even of Seynt Matthy the Apostyll in haste, with the hande of your broder.

WYLL'M PASTON, Junr.

828.

A.D. 1479.—PARSONAGE OF OXNEAD.

[Add. Charter 17,251, B.M.]

It is sufficiently evident that the date of this paper must be later than the 24th February 1479. It appears to be a set of memoranda or instructions by William Paston, addressed to his servant Richard Lee. The MS. is a small roll of paper very mutilated and partly illegible from the effect of damp.

MEMORANDUM.—The day that the lapse went out, which is such day vj. monethes as the seid parson died, was on Tewesday, Our Lady Day, the Nativite, the viij^te day of Septembre last past, anno xviij°.

The day of vj. monethes affter Our seide Lady Day, the Nativite was on Seint Mathes Day[1] the Apostell, last past, whiche was the xxiiij. day of Februare, and so I deme eyther the Bisshoppe of Norwiche hath presented or els it is in the gifft of my Lord Cardinall[2] nowe. Inquere this mater, for the Bisshoppe of Norwich lythe in London, and shall doo till Our Ladys Day this Lenton, as it is said here.

My moder delivered Sir William Holle his presentacion the xiij. day of August, anno xviij°, which was nere a monethe or the day of the vj. monethes went out and past. Wherfore the Bisshoppe ought to pre-

[1] St. Matthias' Day (not St. Matthew's) is meant.
[2] Thomas Bourchier, Archbishop of Canterbury.

sent my moders clarke. Neverthelesse the Bisshoppys officeres aunsware this sayng, that if sondry persones deliver ij. sondrye presentacions for to diverse clarkes to the Bisshoppes officers for one benefice, that then the seid partyes shuld sue to the Bisshop at ther cost to have out an inquerre to inquere *de vero patrono*, sayng forther more, that if they sue nat out this inquerre with affect, and that the lapse fall, than it is lefull for the Bisshop to present, and it is told me that the lawe is this, that the Bisshoppe, be his office with out any sute of the parties, shall call an inquerre afore hym to inquere *de vero patrono*, and he shall assign them a day to bryng in a verdett, and he shall warne bothe partyes to be ther at, and he shall amytte his clarke that is founde patron.

Yet the Bisshopp useth nat to do this, but there as bothe partyes that present are myghty [and wher as he thynketh it were a jopardy to hym][1] to sue the Bisshoppe if he did them any wrong, and wher as ther is a doubtable mater; but in this case the prest that troubleth my moder is but a simple felowe, and he is *appostata*, for he was somtyme a White Frere, and of simple repetacyon, and of litill substans, as my moder can tell, wherfore Bisshoppys use nat in suche litill casys to take so streyte an inquerre, and specyally wher as one hath contynued patron with out interupcion so long as my moder hath done, for she hath contynued more than l. wynter; wherfore I pray yow shewe my cousyn Lovell this bill, and fynde some meanes to intrete the Bisshopp by the meane of James Hobard,[2] which is grete with the Bisshopp, and is nowe Reder of Lyncoln Inne this Lent. And late my lady speke to James Hobard in the mater. If it please my moder ther is a prest callde Sir ———[3] which is thought by the tenauntes of Oxned a metely man to be parson ther; the most thyng that I dowte, bicause Sir William Holle, whom my moder presented, is ronne away, and if the

[1] Crossed out in MS.
[2] Afterwards Attorney General to Henry VII. He was Reader of Lincoln's Inn in Lent, 18 Edward IV.
[3] Blank in MS.

Bisshop will nat present my moders clarke in her title, than I wold that the labour myght be made to the Bisshopp, that he myght present my moders clarke, suche on as shoe will name, in his one title.

Ric. Lee, like as ze may understand be this writing, where as I understod that the Bisshopp myght have kept the benefice but vj. monethes after the patrons vj. monethes war worn out, now I understand the contrary, for I understand he may kepe it a twelmo[nethe] and a day . . . . [*several lines lost*] . . . . . .

Also, if ze knew any yong preste in London that setteth billis upon Powlys dorr per aventure wold be glad to have it, and woll be glad also to serve my lady and my moder for it for a season, I can no more say but purvay a mean to the Bisshopp, that som mon may be put in by my moders title.

. . . . . of the consistore in Norwich, and he hath a broder in the Tower, is master of the Mynt under Brice, called Bartilmew Rede, and a nother broder is a goold smyth dwellyng in the Chepe Side called ———[1] Reede. And he is eyther loged with on of these, his breder, or els at the Jorge in Lumbard Strete, or els at the Cok and the Bell at Billinges gate, a brue hous, for the sei[d] gold smyth hath maried a bruewyf, and kepeth the brue hous, (?) and he can good skylle to helpe in this mater of the benefice of Oxned.

Also, Ric. Lee, who so ever shalbe [presented to the] benefice of Oxned, he muste tell hym, I must pay xiiij. marc to the frutes, and ther for shall he have [da]yes of payment to pay a marc azey[n] if he d[o] gete hym frendschip. And also, Richard, at the makyng of this letter I mend (?) to have ben sure (?) . . . . . and now I in na . . . . . for if it please my moder, me thynke it was well done, Sir William Storor had . . . .

[*The rest unintelligible.*]

[1] Blank in original.

829.

A.D. 1479, 4 March.
Edmund Alyard to Margaret Paston.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

It appears by subsequent letters that Walter Paston actually took a degree at Oxford at Midsummer, and it will be seen by next letter, which is dated by its endorsement, that he must have done so in 1479—the year of his death.

To his worshepful mastres, Mastres Margaret Paston.

RIGHT worshepful mastres, I recommande me unto yow as lowly as I kan, thankyng yow for your goodnes at all tymis; God graunt me to deserve it, and do that may plese yow.

As for your son Water, his labor and lernyng hathe be, and is, yn the Faculte of Art, and is well sped there yn, and may be Bacheler at soche tyme as shall lyke yow, and then to go to lawe. I kan thynk it to his preferryng, but it is not good he know it on to the tyme he shal chaunge; and as I conceyve ther shal non have that exibeshyon to the Faculte of Lawe. Therfore meve ze the executores that at soche tyme as he shal leve it, ye may put a nother yn his place, soche as shal lyke you to prefer. If he shal go to law, and be made Bacheler of Art be fore, and ye wolle have hym hom this yere, then may he be Bacheler at Mydsomor, and be with yow yn the vacacion, and go to lawe at Mihelmas. Qwhat it shal lyke yow to commande me yn this or eny odir, ye shal have myn service redy.

I pray yow be the next masenger to send me your entent, that swech as shal be necessary may be purveyid yn seson. And Jesu preserve yow.

At Oxinforth, the iiij. day of March.

Your scoler,

Edmund Alyard.

830.

A.D. 1479, 22 May.
Walter Paston to Sir John Paston.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

This letter is endorsed in a contemporary hand, apparently Sir John Paston's own, "anno xix°," showing that it was written in the nineteenth year of Edward IV.

To hys ryth reverend broder, Sir John Paston, at Caster Hall, in Norfolk.

AFTER all dw reverens and recomendacions, likyth yt yow to understond that I reseyvyd a letter fro my broder John, where by I understod that my moder and yow wold know what the costes of my procedyng schold be. I sent a letter to my broder John, certyfyyng my costes, and the causys why that I wold procede; but as I have sent word to my moder, I purpose to tary now tyll yt be Mychylmas, for yf I tary tyll than, sum of my costys schall be payyd; for I supposed, whan that I sent the letter to my broder John, that the Qwenys broder[1] schold have procedyd at Mydsomer, but he woll tary now tyll Michylmas; but asI send word to my moder, I wold be Inceptor be fore Mydsomer, and there fore I besechyd her to send me sum mony, for yt woll be sum cost to me, but not mych.

And, syr, I besech yow to send me word what answer ye have of the Buschopp of Wynchester for that mater whych ye spak to hym of for me whan I was with yow at London. I thowth for to have had word there of or thys tyme. I wold yt wold come, for owr fyndyng of the Buschopp of Norwych begynnyth to be slake in payment. And yf ye know not whath thys term menyth, "Inceptor," Master Edmund, that was my rewler at Oxforth, berar here of, kan tell yow, or ellys any oder gradwat.

[1] Lionel Woodville, afterwards Bishop of Salisbury.

Also I pray yow send me word what ys do with the hors I left at Totnam, and whyder the man be content that I had yt of, or nat. Jesu preserve yow to Hys pleswre and to yowr most hartys desyyr.

Wretyn at Oxforth, the Saturday next after Ascensyon of Yowr Lord.

WALTER PASTON.

831.

A.D. 1479, 30 June.
WALTER PASTON TO JOHN PASTON.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

See preliminary note to Letter 829.

To hys ryth trusty and hartyly belovyd broder, John Paston, abydyng at the Georg, at Powlys Qwharfe, in London, be this letter delyveryd.

RYGTH worchypfull and hartyly belovyd broder, I recomaund me on to yow, desyeryng feythfoly to here of yowr prosperyte, qwhych God preserve, thankyng yow of dyverse letterys that yow sent me. In the last letter that yow sent to me, ye wryt that yow schold have wryt in the letter that yow sent by Master Brown, how that I schold send yow word what tyme that I schold procede, but ther was non such wrytyng in that letter. The letter is yet to schew, and yf yow come to Oxon, ye schal see the letter, and all the leterys that yow sent me sythynnys I came to Oxon.

And also Master Brown had that same tyme mysch mony in a bage, so that he durst nat bryng yt with hym, and that same letter was in that same bage, and he had for gete to take owt the letter, and he sent all to geder by London, so that yt was the next day after

that I was maad Bachyler or than the letter cam, and so the fawt was not in me.

And yf ye wyl know what day I was maad Baschyler, I was maad on Fryday was sevynyth, and I mad my fest on the Munday after. I was promysyd venyson a geyn my fest of my Lady Harcort, and of a noder man to, but I was deseyvyd of both; but my gestes hewld them plesyd with such mete as they had, blyssyd be God, Hoo have yow in Hys kepyng. Amen.

Wretyn at Oxon, on the Wedenys day next after Seynt Peter.

W. PASTON.

832.

A.D. 1479, 7 July.—ABSTRACT.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

Bill witnessing the delivery of plate by Geoffrey Hunt on behalf of William Paston to John Davy and Alice, his wife, late wife of John Gygges of Burnham, 7 July 19 Edw. IV. The parcels are:—"A round salt covered, parcel gilt at the borders, weighing 19 oz. 1½ qr., and also 6 silver spoons, square sharp knoppys, weighing 5 oz. 3 qr. 1 dwt.;" which Davy and his wife engage to keep safely, and redeliver to William Paston or Geoffrey Hunt before the feast of St. Faith next coming.

[*Two seals.*]

833.

A.D. 1479, 11 July.—ABSTRACT.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

WILLIAM PASTON TO THOMAS LYNSTED.

Hears that he has felled wood and firs, &c. "Also Jullis hath do made saw (?) zattes." Desires him to "find the means that the young spring may be saved, and the wood fenced. . . . . And also let me be answered both for the old payment and the new of wood sale."

11 July.

P.S.—"If Jullis have made a gate, it is the better for the spring," &c.

[The MS. is a very illegible note in William Paston's hand, written on a small scrap of paper, and endorsed "A letter to Thomas Linsti[d], the —— (*blank*) day of Julii, anno xix. E. iiij^ti^"].

834.

A.D. 1479, 18 Aug.
Will of Walter Paston.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

It will be seen by the next letter that Walter Paston was dead before the 21st August 1479. This will was probably drawn up on the very day he died, or just before.

IN Dei nomine, Amen. Ego, Walterus Paston, clericus, in bona et sana memoria existens, condo testamentum meum apud Norwicum xviiij° die mensis Augusti in hunc modum. Inprimis lego animam meam Deo Omnipotenti, Beatæ Mariæ et omnibus Sanctis, et corpus meum ad sepeliendum in ecclesia Sancti Petri de Hundegate, coram ymagine Sancti Johannis Baptistæ. Item, lego summo altari præfatæ ecclesiæ, iij*s.* iiij*d.* Item, lego reparacioni ecclesiæ supradictæ, ij*s.* vj*d.* Item, Fratri Johanni Somerton, bachalaureo, v*s.* Item, lego Magistro Edmundo unam togam penulatam cum manicis de *mynkys.* Item, lego Roberto Wulff unam togam viridem ——[1] cum *chamelet.* Item, lego Roberto Holand, filio spirituali, togam meam curtam. Item, lego Magistro Roberto Hollar unam togam penulatam cum *gray.* Item, lego Johanni Parker mantellum meum rubeum. Item, lego Magistro Roberto Hollere unum pulvinar vocatum *le bolstar.* Item, lego Magistro Edmundo Alyard unum pulvinar. Item, lego Ricardo Richardson unam togam penulatam ad manus cum *menyver.* Item, volo quod residuum bonorum meorum in Oxonia

[1] Blank in MS.

sit ad usum Magistri Edmundi Alyard, sic quod solvat . . . .[1] Johanni Skelton et Thomæ Coco. Item, volo quod oves meæ, quas habet Willelmus Bataly senior in villa de Mawteby, dividantur equaliter inter fratrem meum Edmundum Paston, et sororem meam Annam Yelverton, et sororem meam Margeriam Paston, uxorem fratris mei Johannis Paston. Item, lego terras et tenementa manerij mei de Cressyngham, si possum dare, fratri meo Johanni Paston armigero, sibi et hæredibus suis, sub condicione ista, quod si contingat fratrem meum prædictum, Johannem Paston, esse hæredem patris mei, quod nullo modo habeat terras et tenementa prædicta, sed quod frater meus Edmundus Paston habeat terras et tenementa prædicta sibi et suis hæredibus. Residuum vero bonorum non legatorum lego et do disposicioni executorum meorum, ut et ipsi fideliter disponant pro anima mea.

Hujus autem testamenti mei executores condo per præsentes, fratrem meum Johannem Paston, armigerum, pro ista patria, et Magistrum Edmundum Alyard pro bonis meis remanentibus Oxoniæ.

835.

A.D. 1479, 19 Aug.—William Paston's Plate.

[Add. MS. 27,451, f. 2, B.M.]

THIS indenture made the xix. day of August, anno xix° [witnesseth][2] that I, Richard Lee, have delivered to Mr. John Russhe thes parcellis folowyng of plate [and][3] of silver.

First, a bason and an ewer with iij. combis in a skochyn.

Item, a silver potte.

A layer of silver, parte gilte with an acorne on the knoppe.

[1] Here occurs a short word, which is to me unintelligible. It seems to be written "pluli."

[2] Omitted in MS.

[3] Erased.

A gilte stonding couppe ponsid with a cover.
A chasid pece with a cover aparte gilte.
ij. playne pecys.
ij. deppe disshis.
x. sponys.
A white playne coppe with a starre in the botom with a cover.
A standing coppe gilte with a cover.
A candellstik of silver with a sokette.
A trevett of silver.
A salt of silver with a brokyn cover.
A cover for a playn pece, the knoppe gravid with armys.

RICHARD LEE.

Endorsed– "Plate of William Paston left with John Russhe, the xiij. day of Sept., a° xix°.

836.

A.D. 1479, 21 Aug.
[EDMUND PASTON TO JOHN PASTON.]

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

This letter is neither signed nor addressed, but is in the handwriting of Edmund Paston, and is endorsed by John Paston the younger, "Dies mortis A. P."

SUER dydynges arn com to Norwyche that r. grandam is dyssessyd, whom God assoyle. Myn uncle had a messenger zesterday that she shuld not escape, and this day cam a nother at suche tyme as we were at masse for my brother Water, whom God assoyle! Myn uncle was comyng to have offered, but the last messenger retornyd hym hastely, so that he toke hys hors incontynent to enforme more of owr hevynes. My syster ys delyverd, and the chyld passyd to God, Who send us Hys grace.

Dokkyng told me sekretly that for any hast myn

uncle shuld ryde by my Lady of Norffolk to have a iij. skore persons, whyther it is to convey my grandham hyder or nowght he cowde not sey; I deme it is rather to put them in possessyon of some of her londes.

Wretyn the Saterdaye the xxi. daye of August, anno E. iiij^{ti} xix^{o}.

837.

A.D. 1479, 26 Aug.—Abstract.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

MANOR OF MARLINGFORD.

Declaration by Robert Mill, John Hobbes, John Claryngton, Thomas Davy, John Brygge, John Watyr, and William Parson, tenants of the manor of Marlyngford, before the Abbot of St. Benet's, John [R]adclyf Fywater,[1] Mr. John Smyth, Robert Ippeswell, William Lomnor, John Paston, Esq., William Yelverton, senior, John Coke, alderman, William Bastard, gentleman, and William Fuller, that they have always held of the manor in the name of Agnes Paston, daughter, and one of the heirs of Edmund Bery, Knt., and in her name only, till Saturday [21 Aug.] before St. Bartholomew Apostle, 19 Edw. IV., when her son, William Paston, desired them to attorn to him without showing writing or evidence.

Done in the parlour of John Cooke, 26 Aug., 19 Edw. IV. *Signed:* "Thomas, Abbot of Seynt Benettes of Hulme."—"J. Radclyff Fytzwauter."—"John Smyth, clerk."—"Robert Ipeswell."—"Will. Lomnor."—"W. Yelverton."—"John Cook."—"Will'm Bastard."—"Will. Fuller."

838.

A.D. 1479, Aug.—Memoranda.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

These memoranda are in the handwriting of Sir John Paston. From the inquiry whether Agnes Paston was yet buried the date is evidently in August 1479.

[1] John Radcliff, son and heir of Sir John Radcliff, called Lord Fitzwalter in the Paston Letters (No. 385). He was summoned to Parliament as Lord Fitzwalter in the first year of Henry VII.

MEMORANDUM, uppon the presse at the ferther ende is a box with ij. or iij. bondellis with evydence off Oxenhed and Hawteyn.

Memorandum, that ther is rollis tyteïyd uppon them "Contra Willelmum Pas[ton]," and they be owther uppon the presse, or on the cowntre, or on the shelffe by the cowntre, or ellys in the cowntre on . . . that syde next the shelffe.

To enquire, off myn, oncle William, off Jane, off my grauntd[ames] wylle, and whoo wrot itt, and whether she be buried or noo, and who were present at hyr wylle makyng, and iff she spoke . . . . . owte off her londes.

Inquire—

Off the Kynge,
The Chaunceler,
Milorde Chamberleyn,
Sir Thomas Mongomere,
Mi Lorde Cardynall,
Master Bele, and hys clerke, ffor my faderes wille.

839.

A.D. 1479, or earlier.

Richard Calle to Margaret Paston.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

This letter is not addressed, but seems to have been intended for Margaret Paston. The date is not very material, but as it mentions Sir John Paston, it cannot be later than 1479, the year in which he died. Perhaps it is about the year 1472.—See Nos. 710, 711.

Plesith it your mastresship to witte, that I sende you a boxe with evidence of Baktons londes, weche plesith it you to delyver to my master, Sir John, so that I may have my money that is behynde. And as for Sporle, I sende you an endenture of the bercars[1] and iij. obligacions eche of v. marke. And as for any endenture of the wode sale I made non, but a noote breefely of the effecte, wech I sende you, as I tolde my mastre at Cristemas, and that tyme he seide to me he was the better plesid, and so I ded no more therto; and an obligacion of C*li.* weche they be bounde to hym to performe ther ther covinauntes; weche remayneth in the handes of the veker of Sporle. And I send you also ij. billes

[1] Barkers or tanners, to whom the bark of the woods had been sold.

of the parcell of the wode sale, bothe the wynter sale and the somer sale, wherof the veker of Sporle and William Halman have the other parties of them, as he comuanded hym selfe at the begynnyng. And lete my countrelle doo what hym liste. I fynd hym a trewe man; he dothe as he hath reported that he shuld go on my harond, and so I undrestond from the[m] he hath do; but thow I have lost a frende of hym in that quarter, I have mo frendes in that contre the[n] hee, &c. Mastres, it were goode to remembre your stuffe of heryng nough this fisshyng tyme. I have goten me a frende in Lestoftot to helpe to purvey me of an vij. or viij. barell, and shal not stonde me upon above vj*s.* viij*d.* a barell, so that he may have money nough in the begynnyng. ye shal do more nough with xl*s.* then ye shal do at Cristemes with v. marke. The fisshyng at Yermouth wol not be so goode at it wolbe at Leystoft, for the haven wol not prove yette, &c. Almyghty God kepe you. Wrete this daye.

Be your servaunt, R.C.

840.

A.D. 1479, 29 Oct.

Sir John Paston to Margaret Paston.

[From Fenn, ii. 276.]

To the ryght worshyfull mestresse, Margret Paston, be thys delyveryd.

PLEASE it yow to weet, that I have ben heer at London a xiiij. nyght, wheroff the ffyrst iiij. dayes I was in suche ffeer off the syknesse, and also ffownde my chambr and stuffe nott so clene as I demyd, whyche troblyd me soor; and as I tolde yow at my departyng, I was nott weell monyed, ffor I hadde nott paste x. marke, wheroff I departyd xl*s.* to be delyveryd off my olde bedfelawe; and then I rode be yonde Donstaple, and ther spake with on oft my cheffe witnessis, whyche promysed me to take labor, and to gete me wryghtyngs towchyng thys mater bytwyen me and the Duke of Suffolk,[1] and I rewardyd hym xx*s.*; and then, as I informyd yow, I payed v.

[1] John de la Pole, Duke of Suffolk.—F.

marke incontynent uppon my comyng hyddr to replegge owte my gowne off velwett and other geer.

And then I hopyd to have borowyd some off Townesend, and he hath ffoodyd me [1] fforthe evyrsynys, and in effecte I cowde have at the most, and at the sonest yisterdaye xx*s.* wherffor I beseche yow to purveye me C*s.* and also to wryght to Pekok, that he purveye me as moche, C*s.* whyche I supose that he hathe gaddryd at Paston and other places, by thys tyme; ffor with owte I have thys x*li.*, as God helpe me, I ffer I shalle doo butt litell goode in noo mater, nor yitt I woote nott howe to come home, but iff I have it.

This geer hathe troblyd me so, that itt hathe made me moor than halffe seke, as God helpe me.

Item, I undrestande that myn oncle William hathe made labor to th' Exchetor, and that he hathe bothe a wrytte off *essend.* clowsyth extr.; and also a *supercedeas.* I have wretyn to the Exchetor ther in off myn entent, iff myn oncle hadde hys wyll in that, yitt sholde he be never the nerre the londe, butt in effecte he shold have thys advantage, whyche is behovefull ffor a weyke mater to have a colour, or a clooke, or a botrase.

But on Tywesdaye I was with the Bysshop off Hely,[2] whyche shewyth hymselffe goode and worshypfull; and he seyde that he sholde sende to myn oncle William, that he sholde nott procede in no suche mater, till that he speke with hym; and moor ovyr that he sholde cawse hym to be heer hastelye; in whyche mater is no remedy as nowe, but iff it wer soo, that the Exchetor, iff he be entretyd to sytte by myn oncle William, whyche percase he shall nott, that iff my brother John and Lomnor have knowleche off the daye, and they myght be ther; Lomnor can geve evydence i now in that mater with owte the boke; and mor ovyr that they see bothe the letter and the other noote, that I sente to

[1] Fenn reads "ffoodyd ne," and in the modern copy "fooded not forth," of which some fanciful explanations are suggested in a footnote. The true reading ought certainly to be "me" and not "ne," the meaning evidently being "he has put me off ever since." "To fode out with words" is an expression which, as Halliwell informs us, occurs in Skelton, Harrington, &c.

[2] John Morton, afterwards Archbishop of Canterbury, and Cardinal.

the Exchetor, and with helpe off the Exchetor all myght be as beste is; and iff my brother and Lomnor take labor her in, I shal recompence ther costs.

Wretyn in haste with schort advisement on the Fryday next Seynt Symonds and Jude, anno E. iiij^{ti} xix^{o}.

Late my brother John se thys bille, for he knoweth mor off thys mater. JOHN PASTON, K.

841.

A.D. 1479, 6 Nov.
JOHN PASTON TO SIR JOHN PASTON.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

It will be seen from the contents that this letter must have been written after the receipt of the last, or of one to the same effect addressed to John Paston.

To Syr John Paston, Knyght.

SYR, aftyr all dwtes of recomendacyon, pleasyt to undyrstand, that, acordyng to your lettre sent me by Wyllson, Lomnore and I mett at Norwyche and drew ought a formable bylle ought of your, and send it ayen to th'Exchetore Palmer by my brodyr Edmund, whyche had an other erand in to that contre to spek with H. Spylman, to get hys good wyll towardes the bargayn lyek to be fynyshed hastyly betwyx Mastres Clyppysby and hym. And, syr, at the delyvere of the bylle of inquisicyon to th'Exchetour, my brodyr Edmund told hym that accordyng to your wryghtyng to me, I spak with myn oncle William, and told hym that I undyrstood by yow that my Lord of Elye had aswell desyred hym in wryghtyng as you by mouthe, that non of you shold swe to have the inquisycion fond aftyr your intentys tyll other weyes of pese wer takyn betwyx you; wherfor my brodyr Edmund desyred hym that with ought myn oncle labord to have it fond for hym, ellys that he shold not procede for yow; but th'Exchetour answerd hym that he wold fynd it for you,

aftyr your byll, of hys owne autorite; and so it was fond. But, syr, ye must remembre that my Lord of Ely desyred myn oncle as well as you to surcease, as I put myn oncle in knowlage, and myn oncle at the fyrst agreid that he wold make no more sute a bought it, in trust that ye wold do the same, acordyng to my Lord of Elys desyer; wherfor ye had ned to be ware that th'Exchetor skyppe not from you, when he comyth to London, and sertyfye it, or ye spek with hym. Th'Exchetor shalbe at London by Twysdaye or Wednysday next comyng, at John Leeis house, for he shall ryd forwardys as on Monday next comyng be tymys, &c.

Syr, your tenauntes at Crowmer sey that they know not who shalbe ther lord; they marvayll that ye nor no man for yow hathe not yet ben there. Also, when I was with myn oncle, I had a longe pystyll of hym, that ye had sent Pekok to Paston, and comandyd the tenauntes ther that they shold pay non areragys to hym, but if [*unless*] they wer bond to hym by obligacyon for the same; myn oncle seythe it was other wyse apoyntyd be for the arbytrorys; they thought, he seythe, as well my Mastyr Fytzwalter as other, that he shold receyve that as it myght be gadryd; but now he seythe, that he wottyth well some shall renne away, and some shall wast it, so that it is nevyr lyek to be gadryd, but lost, and so I trow it is lyek to be of some of the dettors, what for casuelte of dethe and thes other causes befor rehersyd; wherfor me thynkyth if it were apoyntyd befor the arbytrors that he shold receyve theym, as he seythe, it wer not for you to brek it, or ellys if he be pleyn executor to my grauntdam, then also he ought to have it. I spek lyek a blynd man, do ye as ye thynk, for I was at no syche apoyntment befor th'arbytrors, nor I know not whethyr he is executor to my grauntdam or not, but by hys seying.

Also, syr, ye must of ryght, consyderyng my brodyr Edmundys diligence in your maters, sythe your departyng, helpe hym forwardys to myn oncle Syr

George Brown, as my brodyr Edmund preyid yow in hys lettyr that he sent on to yow by Mondys sone of Norwyche, dwellyng with Thomas Jenney, that myn oncle Syr George may gett to my brodyr Edmund of the Kyng the wardshepp of John Clyppysby, son and heyer to John Clyppysby,[1] late of Owby, in the conte of Norffolk, Sqwyr, dwryng the nonnage of my Lord and Lady of York,[2] thow it cost iiij. or v. mark the swte. Let myn oncle Syr George be clerk of the haniper, and kepe the patent, if it be grantyd, tyll he have hys mone, and that shall not be longe to.

Myn oncle Syr George may enforme the Kyng for trowthe, that the chyld shall have no lond duryng hys yong modyrs lyff, and ther is no man her that wyll mary with hym withought they have some lond with hym, and so the gyft shall not be gret that the Kyng shold geve hym; and yet I trow he shold get the modyr by that meane, and in my conseyt the Kyng dothe but ryght if he graunt my brodyr Edmund Clyppysbys son in recompense for takyng my brodyr Edmundes son, otherwyse callyd Dyxsons, the chyldys fadyr being alyve. Dyxson is ded, God have hys sowle, Whom I beseche to send you your most desyred joye.

Wretyn at Norwyche, on Seynt Leonardes Day.

J. Paston.

Syr, it is told me that Nycolas Barlee, the Scyuer, hathe takyn an axion of dett ayenst me thys terme. I prey yow let Whetley or some body spek with hym, and lete hym wet that if he swe me softly thys terme, that he shall be payed or the nexte terme be at an end. It is a bought vj*li.*, and in feythe he shold have had it or thys tyme, and our threshers of Sweynsthorp

[1] The writer probably intended to say "son and heir to William Clippesby," who died about this time. His widow Catherine, the daughter of John Spelman, Esq., of Stow Bekerton, soon afterwards married Edmund Paston.

[2] Richard, Duke of York, son of Edward IV., at this time a child of seven years old, and Anne Mowbray, daughter of the late Duke of Norfolk, to whom he was married in 1478.

had not dyed upp; and if I myght have payed it hym a yer ago, as well as I trust I shall sone aftyr Crystmass, I wold not for xij*li.* have brokyn hym so many promessys as I have.

Also, syr, I prey yow send me by the next man that comyth fro London ij. pottys of tryacle of Jenne,—they shall cost xvj*d.*,—for I have spent ought that I had with my yong wyf, and my yong folkys, and my sylff, and I shall pay hym that shall bryng hem to me, and for hys caryage. I prey you lett it be sped.

The pepyll dyeth sore in Norwyche, and specyally abought my house, but my wyff and my women come not ought, and fle ferther we can not; for at Sweynsthorpe, sythe my departyng thens, they have dyed, and ben syke nye in every house of the towne.

842.

A.D. 1479, 22 Nov.
William Paston to Robert Walsh.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

This letter or fragment of a letter is a corrected draft in William Paston's hand, and is endorsed by him:—"A letter to Roberd Walsche of Colby, the —— day off Novembre, anno xix."

YET wold I tary, all be yt I have taryd your comyg this halff yer, for I deme her suche men as schall well undyrstond myn titill good; yff any man have good tytyll I am suyr that myn is gode. I dar well juperde to take a dystres, wedyr they come or nat, and so I wyll ze know. Wer for, in so much as I left myn distress for iowr dysyr, so that I be answerid off myn mony acordyng to myn ryth, ar else send me answer, one ar oder [*one or other*], and lett me take the avantage that the Kynge lawys will zeff me be dystress qweche I have delayed, me thynk to long, for any thank that I have.

Wretyn at Norwich, the xxij. Novembre.

843.

A.D. 1479, Nov.—Jullye to his Father.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

Well beloved fader, my master prayed you that ye will sende knowlach be my broder as sone as these men be come to Knapton, and that ye may laye a weche to knowe ho sone they be come, and sende me be your sone ar else be some other trusty man; and I have take your son a grote for his laubour. And do this in hast; for wheder they com or nat I wille take a distresse ther, and thatt will abide[1] till I knowe the dealing of them this ij. ar iij. dayes for to know wheder they wille come or nat, and ther after shall I be demeaned.

Endorsed in William Paston's hand—A letter fro ——[2] Jullye, clark of Sent Edmundes, to his fadyr, to North Walsham, the ——[2] day Novembr', anno xix.

844.

Manor of Knapton.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

This is a paper of memoranda in the handwriting of William Paston, endorsed "A mater tochyng Knapton for my fee."

Mr Thomas Pasche of Wynsowr toke the astate and retorne to the Dean and Colage of Wynsowr *infra Castrum.*

And one ——[2] Holme, atornay off corte, is recognis (?) and was at stat takyn.

Robert Walsch off Colby j. myl. et di' fro Blyklyng is steward.

Here folow revys of Knapton:—

Fro M. xvij. till xviij°, Martyn Smyth.

F[ro] M. xviij. till xix°, Roberd Fraunk (?), his place bonde.

Fro M. xix. till xx°, Thomas Frank, his place fre.

845.

A.D. 1479, 25 Nov.—Cressingham Manor.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

This paper is in the handwriting of John Paston the younger. The reference to the burial of Walter Paston proves it to be of the year 1479.

[1] "Wer I lothe" has been crossed through, and "thatt will abide" written over

[2] Blanks in MSS.

RECEYVED at Cressingham, the Thirsday nex aftyr Seynt Edmund[1] at the corte ther v*li.* x*s.* by the handes of me, John Paston, Sqwyer.

Wherof payed to my modyr for costys don up on the berying of Walter Paston, and whyll he lay sek, and for the hyer of a man comyng with the seyd Water fro Oxenford xx*d.* . . xxix*s.* xj*d.*

Item, payed to William Gybson for j. horse sadyll and brydyll lent to Water Paston by the seyd William, xvj*s.*

Item, gevyn the seyd man comyng fro Oxenford with the seyd Water by the handys of J. Paston, ... xx*d.*

Item, payed for dyvers thynges whyll Water Paston lay sek, ... iiij*d.*

Item, for the costes of John Paston rydyng to kepe the coort at Cressingham, *anno supradicto*, whych was iiij. dayes in doing, for the styward mygh not be ther at the day prefyxid, ... iij*s.* iiij*d.*

846.

A.D. 1479, Nov.

John Paston to Margaret Paston.

[From Fenn, ii. 280.]

Sir John Paston died in London on the 15th November 1479, as Fenn informs us. I presume he had some authority for the precise date, which I have not seen. The inquisition *post mortem* is not now to be found; but the writ to the Escheator still exists, and is dated 30 Nov. 19 Edw. IV. This letter refers not only to the burial of Sir John Paston, but also to the death of his grandmother Agnes. The year was one of great mortality.

[1] St. Edmund's Day is the 20th November. The Thursday after it in 1479 was the 25th.

To my ryght worchepfull modyr, Margaret Paston, at Seynt Peter of Hundgate.

RYGHT worchepfull modyr, aftyr all dwtes of humble recomendacyon, as lowly as I can, I beseche yow of your dayly blyssyng and preyeres. And, moder, John Clement, berer heroff, can tell yow, the mor pite is, if it pleasyd God, that my brodyr is beryed in the Whyghte Fryers at London; whych I thought shold not have ben, for I supposyd that he wold have ben beryed at Bromholme, and that causyd me so sone to ryd to London to have purveyd hys brynging hom, and if it had ben hys wylle to have leyn at Bromholm, I had purposyd all the wey as I have redyn to have brought hom my grauntdame[1] and hym to gedyrs; but that purpose is voyd as now. But thys I thynke to do when I com to London to spek with my Lord Chamberleyn,[2] and to wynne by hys meanys my Lord of Ely,[3] if I can; and if I may by eny of ther meanys cause the Kyng to take my servyse and my quarrell to gedyrs, I wyll, and I thynk that Sir George Brown, Sir Jamys Radclyff, and other of myn aqueyntance, whyche wayte most upon the Kyng, and lye nyghtly in hys chamber, wyll put to ther good wyllys. Thys is my wey as yet. And, modyr, I beseche yow, as ye may get or send eny messengers, to send me yowr avyse and my cosyn Lomeners to John Leeis hows, taylere, with in Ludgate. I have myche more to wryght, but myn empty hed wyll not let me remembre it.

Also, modyr, I prey that my brodyr Edmond may ryd to Marlyngforthe, Oxenhed, Paston, Crowmer, and Caster, and all thes maners to entre in my name, and to lete the tenants of Oxenhed and Marlyngfor know that I sent no word to hym to take no mony of theym but ther attornement; wherfor he wyll not, tyll he her

[1] Agnes, widow of William Paston the Judge.
[2] William, Lord Hastyngs.
[3] John Morton, afterwards Archbishop of Canterbury, and Cardinal, &c.

fro me ayen, axe hem non, but lete hym comand theym to pay to servaunts of myn oncles, nor to hymsylff, nor to non othyr to hys use, in peyne of payment ayen to me. I thynk if ther shold be eny money axid in my name, peraventure it wold make my Lady of Norfolk ayenst me, and cause hyr to thynk I dellt more contrary to hyr plesure than dyd my brodyr, whom God pardon of Hys gret mercy. I have sent to entre at Stansted and at Orwellbery, and I have wretyn a bylle to Anne Montgomery and Jane Rodon to make my Lady of Norffolk, if it wyll be.

Your sone and humble servaunt,

J. Paston.

847.

A.D. 1479, 28 Nov.
William Lomnor to John Paston.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

It is apparent from the contents that this letter was written shortly after the decease of Sir John Paston in November 1479.

To the ryght worchypfull John Paston, Squyer, yn haste.

MY Master Paston, I recomaunde me to yow, preyyng God to have mercy on my master your brother sowle, to whom ye ar heyre, and also to my mastras your grauntdam. Wherfore be th'avyse of my mastras your carful moder, your brothere Edmund, on Sunday next before Sent Andrew, rod to Marlyngforth, and before alle the tenauntez, examynid on James, kepere ther for Will. Paston, where he was the weke next before Sent Andrew, and there he seyd that he was not at Marlingforth from the Monday unto the Thorday at evyn, and soo there was no man there but your brothers man at the tyme of his decese; so be that your brothere dyyd sesid, and

your brothere E. bad your man kepe possession to your behoffe, and warned the tenauntez to pay noo man, til ye hadde spoke them. So mesemyth that ys a remyttir to your old taylyd titell; comon with your concell. Forther, at afternoon he was at Oxned to understande how they had doo, and Peris kepyd your brotheres possession at that tyme; and your oncle his man was not there, but he assyned anothere pore man to be ther. Whethere that contynuid the possession of W. Paston or not be remembrid, &c.

And after the decese, &c., W. Paston sent the man that kepyd possession to fore to entre and kepe possession, wheche was noo warent be tha poyntment, for ye stande at your liberte as for ony apoyntment or comunycacion hadde before, and soo men seme it wer good for yow to stande at large til ye here more; yf ye myght have my Lord Chamberleyns good faver and lordship, it were ryght expedyent. As for my Lord of Ely, dele not wyth hym be owr avyse, for he woll move for trete, and elles be displesid. Your brother Edmund sent to John Wymond, and he sent word he wolle be a mene of trete, but wold take noo parte, and as I sopose that was be Heydons avyse; for your uncle sent to me to be with hym, and also the same man rodd to Heydon and Wymondham, &c. The brenger of this letter can tell, for he was with your brothere E. at these placez.

Forther, my mastras your moder gretyth yow well, and sendyth yow her blessyng, requiryng yow to come oute of that here [*air*] alsone as ye may; and your brothere E. comaundid hym to yow, and he doth hys dylygens, and parte for yow full well and saddely yn many behalvys, and hath brought my maistras your wife to Toperofte on Friday last, and they fare all well there; and he yntendith to see my Master Fitz Water, whech lythe at Freton, ner Long Stratton. And God be your gide yn all your maters, and brenge yow sone home.

Wretyn at Norwyche, on Sonday at nyght next

before Sent Andrew, and delyverd on Monday next be the morwyn. Be your, W. LOMNOUR.

848.

ABSTRACT.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

[WILLIAM PASTON TO ROBERT WALSH.]

Thinks his dealing not very commendable, seeing that the writer is not paid his fee, according to the promise made by him and Fouke of Knapton, when they were with him at Norton. I had a distress and left it for your sake, but you show no consideration for me, &c.

[This is a draft in the handwriting of William Paston. To it is attached a small slip with these words, "A letter fro William Paston to Robert Walsch and Robert Fouk of Knapton."]

849.

A.D. 1479, Dec.

JOHN PASTON TO MARGARET PASTON.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

It is evident from the contents that this letter was written shortly after the death of Sir John Paston. The year 1479 was a year of great mortality, in which the Paston family lost three of its members. The letter is not signed, but is in John Paston's hand.

To my ryght worchepfull and most kynd modyr, Margarett Paston.

RYGHT werchepfull modyr, aftyr all dutes of humble recomendacyon, as lowly as I can, I beseche yow of your dayly blyssyng and preyer. Pleasyt yow to undyrstand that wher as ye wyllyd me by Poiness to hast me ought of the heyer that I am in, it is so that I must pwt me in God, for her must I be for a season, and in good feyth I shall never, whyll God sendyth me lyff, dred mor dethe than shame; and thankyd be God, the sykness is well seasyd here, and also my besyness puttyth awey

my fere. I am drevyn to labore in lettyng of th'execucyon of myn unkynd onclys entent, wher in I have as yet non other dyscorage, but that I trust in God he shall fayle of it.

I have spokyn with my Lord of Ely[1] dyvers tymys, whyche hathe put me in serteynte by hys woord, that he wyll be with me ayenst myn oncle in iche mater that I can shewe that he entendyth to wrong me in; and he wold fayne have a resonable end betwyx us, wher to he wyll helpe, as he seythe. And it is serteyn my brodyr, God have hys soule, had promysed to a byde the reule of my Lord Chamberleyn[2] and of my Lord Ely; but I am not yett so far forthe, nor not wyll be, tyll I know my Lord Chamberleyns intent, and that I purpose to do to morow, for then I thynk to bewith hym, with Godes leve. And sythe it is so that God hathe purveyd me to be the solysytore of thys mater, I thank Hym of Hys grace for the good lordes, mastrys, and frendys that He hathe sent me, whyche have perfytely promysyd me to take my cause as ther owne, and those frendes be not a fewe.

And, modyr, as I best can and may, I thank yow and my cosyn Lomenore of the good avyse that ye have sent me, and I shall aplye me to do ther aftyr. Also, modyr, I beseche you on my behalf to thank myn cosyn Lomnorre for the kindness that he hathe shewyd on to me in gevyng of hys answer to myn onclys servaunt, whyche was with hym.

Modyr, I wryght not so largely to yow as I wold do, for I have not most leyser; and also when I have ben with my Lord Chamberleyn, I purpose not to tery longe aftyr in London, but to dresse me to yow wardes; at whyche tyme I trust I shall brynge yow more serteynte of all the fordell [*advantage*] that I have in my besyness then I can as yett wryght.

I am put in serteynte by my most specyall good mastyr, my Mastyr of the Rollys,[3] that my Lord of Ely

[1] John Morton, Bishop of Ely.
[2] Lord Hastings.
[3] Robert Morton.

is, and shal be bettyr lord to me then he hathe shewyd as yet, and yet hathe he delt with me ryght well and honourably.

Modyr, I beseche yow that Pekok may be sent to purvey me as myche money as is possybyll for hym to make ayenst my comyng home, for I have myche to pay her in London, what for the funerall costes, dettes, and legattes that must be content in gretter hast then shalbe myn ease. Also I wold the ferme barly in Flegge, as well as at Paston, if ther be eny, wer gadryd, and iff it may be resonably sold, then to be sold or putt to the maltyng; but I wold at Caster that it were ought of the tenauntes handys for thynges that I here (kepe ye consell thys fro Pekok and all folkys), whyche mater I shall appese, if God wyll geve me leve.

850.

After A.D. 1479.

John Paston and his Uncle William.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

It is evident that this paper was drawn up some time after the death of Si John Paston in 1479. It is in his brother John's handwriting.

THES be th'enjuryes and wrongys done by William Paston to John Paston, hys nevew.

Fyrst, the maners of Marlyngforthe, Stansted, and Horwellbery was gev[en to] William Paston, Justyce, and to Agnes, hys wyff, and to th'eyers of ther tw . . . . to whom the seyd John Paston is cosyn and heyer, that is to sey, son to John, son and heyer to the seyd William and Agnes.

Item, wher the [*seyd William Paston was seasyd of the maner of* ——], Ed. Clere with other infeofyd to the use of the seyd Will[iam][1] and of hys heyres, the

1 "Ed. Clere—Will[iam]."—These words are interlined in place of the words in italics within brackets, which are struck through.

whyche William made hys wyll that th[e said Agnes], hys [wife], shold have the seyd maner for terme of hyr lyff. And aftyr th[at he] dyed, and the seyd Agnes occupyed for terme of hyr seyd lyff . . . . of the seyd feoffes the seyd maner; and aftyrwardes the seyd . . . . . Afftyr whoys dethe Sir John Paston, Knyght, as cosyn and heyer to t[he said William], in to the seyd maner entred, and dyed with ought issue of hys bodye. . . . . John as brodyr and heyer to the seyd Sir John, [*and cosyn and heyer is lett* . .],[1] . . seyd maner entred, and is lettyd to take the profytys of the same by . . . . of the maners of Marlyngforthe, Stansted, and Horwelbery befor r . . . . by the meanys of the seyd Wylliam.

851.

A.D. 1479-80.—John Paston to ——.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

As this letter refers to the making of a tombstone for Sir John Paston, it may be presumed to have been written either at the end of the year 1479, or in the course of the year 1480. The MS. is a rough draft, apparently in the hand of Edmund Paston. It has been slightly mutilated, and apparently since the letter was printed in Fenn's fifth volume.

SIR, I pray yow that ye will send sum chyld to my Lord of Bukingham place, and to the Crown, wich as I conseive is called Gerardes Hall, in Bred Stret, to inquere whedir I have any answer of my letter sent to Caleys, whech ye know off; and that ye will remembre my brotheris ston, so that it myth be mad er I cumm ageyn, and that it be klenly wrowgth. It is told me that the man at Sent Bridis is no klenly portrayer; [the]rfor I wold fayn it myth be portrayed be sum odir man, and he to grave it up.

Sir, it is informyd sum personis in this cuntre that ye know that the frere will sew a nodir delegaci fro Rome, direkt to sum byschop of Ingland, to amend his

[1] These words are struck through.

mater, &c.; and how be it that it may not gretly hurt, yet the seyd persones, &c., wold not he shuld have his entent, in asmoch as his suggestion is untrew, but rather they wold spend mony to lette it. I suppose the Abbot of Bery shuld labor for him rather than anodir, becawse the sey Abbot is a perteynor to the lord that is the freris mayntener, &c.; wherefor, ser, my moder and I pray yow enquere after a man callid Clederro, whych is solisitor and attorne with Master Will. Grey, that late was the Kingges proktor at Rome, and the seyd Clederro sendith matiers and letters owth of Ingelond to his seyd master ever[y] monith, &c. He is well knowe in London, and among the Lumbardes, and with the Bischop of Winchesteris men, but I wot not wher he dwellit in London, and I suppos if ye speke with him, he knowith me. Plese yow to comone with him of this mater, but let him not wete of the mater atwix my modir and him; but desir him to wryth to his master to lett this, if it may be, or elles to se the best wey that he have not his intent, and to comon with the proktor of the Whith Freris at Rome to hep forth, for the freris here have laborid to my moder, and praid her to lette his ontrewe intent, and have wrete to her proketor befor this. And I suppose if ye speke to the prior of the freris at London, he will writh to her seyd proktor, &c., but tell the prior no word that I know [ther]of, but let him wete if he will wryth to his proktor, odir men shall help forth.

More over, that ye will tell Cledero that I am not seker that the frere laborith thus, but be talis of freris and odir; nevertheles let him writh to his master that [for] whatsomevyr he do herin, he shall be truly content for his labor and costes. And if ye think that Cledro will writh effectually herin, geff hym j. noble, [bid] hym let his master know that my Lord of Wynchester[1] and Danyell ow godwill to the part that he shall labor for. And if thar be fown no sech sewth be the seyd [fre]re, yet wold I have sum thing fro Rome to anull the old

[1] William Waynflete, Bishop of Winchester.

bull, &c., or to apeyr [*impair*] it [if] it myth be do esily, &c., and tyding wheder ther be any sech sute, &c. Your own, &c.

[For] how beit that it may nowthir avayl ner hurt, yet my moder will this be do. [I] send yow the copi of the bull, and how execucion was do, and informacion of the mater imparte, &c. And, sir, I sha content your noble, &c. And I pray yow red it over, and spede yow homeward, and bring this letter home with yow, &c.

852.

After A.D. 1479.—An Inventory of Plate.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

This inventory was certainly drawn up after the death of Agnes Paston but how many years later it is impossible to say.

In primis, a sallt with j. cover, .	xx. unces di. & di. quart.
j. stumpe of a salte, . . .	ij. unces & di.
j. flat salt with a squyrell, . .	j. unce iij. quarters.
iiij. Parys cuppis with a cover, with a rose in the botom, weyeng .	lvj. unces j. quarter.
ij. holowe disshes, . . .	xxix. unces iij. quarter di.
j. chafre of silver, . . .	ix. unces j. quarter.
xij. sylver spones, wereof my lady hath one.	
j. lytil spone of Rippyngales, .	j. quarter & di quarter, j. d. ob. q^{a}. di.
j. lityll spone for egges, . .	j. quarter & di. quarter ob.
j. prikettes nuper Howis, . .	ix. unces ij. d. weight.
j. preket nuper Howis, . .	viij. unces iij. quarters & di.
j. long soket.	
j. nother long soket.	
vj. soketes, with branches to remeve.	
iij. wherwilles to the same.	
j. playne pees for potage, per estimacionem	xj. unces j. quarter.
j. playn pees nuper Frere Water,	iiij. unces j. quarter.
j. nother playn peece nuper Frere Walter, ...	iiij. unces di. quarter.
j. chaleis, ...	xv. unces & di. quarter.
ij. cruettes, ...	vij. unces iij. quarters.

a paxbred,[1]	iij. unces di. quarter j. d.
j. holowe barbore bason, bought of Colet.	
j. standing pece couvered, bought of Elingham, ...	xv. unces & j. quarter.
iij. gilt spones.	
j. spone for grene gynger, gilt, .	j. unce j. quarter j. qa. & di.
j. gilte cup covered, wel shapen with trayle, with j. knop with a kroune enamelid, ...	xxxiij. unces & di. & di. quarter.
j. nothir cupp standing covered, gilt, bell shapen with trailles, with a playn knopp not enamelid, .	xxiij. unces & j. quarter.
j. maser Sipton.	
ij. masers.	
iij. gilt spones.	
j. gynger spone.	
j. bag whiteleder, wherin is all this stuff folowyng this lyne:—	

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iij. girdels Staunton.	
j. girdel upholdester.	
Fawcon Skern coppe.	
Hans Eborlyn girdel.	
Purs gold with Jane Aske harnes.	
ij. lynen bagges lityll with broke silver and j. old harneis gilt.	
Furst, a standing cuppe with a cover therto plommed, weyeng .	xxiiij. unces di.
Item, a standing coppe curid gilt, weyeng	xxxvj. unces.
Item, a nother standing cupp cuerid gilt, weying	xv. unces iij. qa. & di.
Item, a goblette of silver and gilt covered, ...	xiiij. unces j. quarter & di.
Item, a nother goblett gilt, weyeng	xij. unc' & j. d. weight.
Item, a nothir goblet gilt, weyeng	vij. unc'.
Item, a standing white pees with a cover withoute a knoppe, weyeng	xxij. unces.
Item, a salt with a pale covered,	xiiij. unc' j. quarter.
Item, a rounde salt covered, .	xix. unc' j. quarter di.
Item, a rounde salt uncovered, .	viij. unces.
Item, a basonne of . . .	xxxv. unc' j. quarter.
Item, an ewer to the same of .	xv. unc' & di. quarter.
Item, an ewer, ...	xiiij. unc' di. quarter.

[1] A silver plate with a figure of the Crucifixion upon it given to be kissed at Mass.

Item, vj. silver sponys with square sharp knoppes of . . . v. unces iij. quarter j. d. wight.
Item, spone for grene gynger of iij. quarters & ij. d. wight.
Item, a grete gilt chalis with a patent longing to the same, weying . xlij. unces j. quarter.
Item, a litil standing pece chacid plumtes, with a kover to the same, x. unces j. quarter.
Item, a blak notte standing of silver and gilt, with a kover to the same, weying . . . . . xviij. unc'.
Item, a grete maser with a prend in the botom, and the armes of Seint Jorge, weying . . xv. unc' j. quarter & di.
Item, a nother maser sownde in the botom and a sengilbonde, . viij. unc' & j. quarter.
Item, a lytil maser with a foote, weying . . . . . viij. unc'
Item, a nother maser with a lytill foote, weing . . . . viij. unc'.
Item, a nothir litill maser with an higher foote, weying . . x. unces & j. quarter.
Item, xx^ti^ spones on a bundell, weying . . . . . xvj. unc' j. quarter.
Item, vj. spones with acorns, weying v. unc' & di. quarter.
Item, a peyre bedes of corall with paternostris of silver and gilt, and a knopp of smale perle, weying vj. unc' j. quarter.

In primis, j. standing cuppe covered playne with a rounde knoppe, weyeng . . . . . xxv. unces.
j. nodir cuppe of golde covered playne with a chacid knoppe, weying . . . . . xxiij. unces iij. quarters.
j. layer of gold with a crokid spoute, weyeng . . . . . xiij. unces iij. quarters.
j. nothir layer of golde, weyeng . xiij. unces j. quarter j. d.
j. chaleis of fyne golde in pecis broken, ... xxiiij. unces.
j. coppe of golde covered, chacid with a perle, ... xxj. unces.
j. salte covered with a berall gairneshid, ... v. unces j. quarter.
j. nothir salt covered, garnyshed with stones, ... v. unces iij. quarter.
j. par of gilt basouns covered, weyeng viij^xx^. xix. unces & di.
j. salte gilte, weyeng . . . xxviij. unces di. quarter.
j. cover to the same, weyeng, . viij. unces j. quarter.
j. nothir salte gilte withoute a cover, xxvij. unces iij. quarters.

j. standing pees gilte, with a cover Skern, ... xxxvij. unces j. quarter.
j. nothir standing pees gilte with a cover, A. P. . . . . xxj. unces di. & di. quarter.
j. flatte pees covered, gilt, A. P. xviij. unces & di.
j. potte for grene gynger gilte, . x. unces & di. iiij. d. ob.
j. cover to the same, weying . . j. unce & j. quarter.
j. stonding cuppe covered parcell gilt, Sir Buk, ... xvj. unces & j. quarter.
j. salt covered parcell gilt, Sir Ric.', xij. unces & di.
j. paxe parcell gilte, Staunton, . xuj. unces.
j. standing cuppe with a kever, parcell gilt, Staunton, . . xix. unces & di.
j. goblett for Rynesh wyne covered, xj. unces & di. quarter.
j. powder boxe, ... vj. unces j. quarter di. quarter.
j. noder powder boxe, . . viij. unces j. quarter.
j. candilstykke with a lous [*loose*] sokett and j. preket, P. . . xvij. unces di. quarter.
ij. candilstikkes with ij. lous preketes, Skern, ... xxxj. unces j. quarter di.
di. doss. [*half a dozen*] sylver spones, Shipton, ... vj. unces di. & di. quarter.
di. doss. spones, Stanton, . . vij. unces.
j. bason, P. . . . . xlv. unces di.
j. bason, Sparke, . . . lx. unces.
j. bason, Sturmer, with a spoute, xxxiiij. unces j. quarter j. d. q.
j. bason, Sturmer, withoute a spoute, xxxij. unces j. quarter di. quarter j. d. qa.
j. bason, Rous, ... l. unces iij. quarters.
j. ewer, P. . . . . xvj. unces & di. & di. quarter.
j. ewer, Sparke, . . . xx. unces.
j. ewer, Sturmer, . . . xiiij. unces j. quarter & di. quarter qa.
j. ewer, Sturmer, . . . xiiij. unces di. di. quarter j. d. ob. qa.
j. ewer, Rous, ... xviij. unces.
j. pott, Hous, ... lvij. unces.
j. pott, P. . . . . xxviij. unces iij. quarter di.ij.
j. pott, S. . . . lett, . . xv. unces.
j. pott, Rous, ... xxxv. unces.
j. pott, Spark, ... xxvij. unces j. quarter.
j. flagon, ... xxxix. unces.
j. layer, ... ix. unces a quarter & di.
j. layer, ... ix. unces j. quarter & ij. di.
vj. Parys cuppis with a cover, Skerne, lxx. unces iij. quarters di.
j. grete boll pees, with a cover, Noris, xl. unces j. quarter.
xxiij. disshis of sylver, Skerne, . xvij^{xx}.vj. unces di.
iiij. chargeours. . . . . v^{xx}.x. unces.

xxvij. dishes, ... xxxx-xj. unces di. & di. quarter.
xxiij. sawcers, ... vjxx-xv. unces.
[1] xij. flatt cuppis of silver, P. and Staunton, ... vxx-v. unces iij. quarters.
[1] iiij. coveres to the same, P. and Staunton, - . . . xl. unces.
j. chargeour priour (?) water, . xlvj. unces j. quarter di.

853.

After A.D. 1479.—Abstract.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

William Paston to his Brother Edmund Paston.

Encloses the will of his father, "such as my brother hath;" who says he had it out of the register. My business is no further advanced since I left you, except that my brother has got a pardon of the alienation made by the Bishop of Winchester. Can get no estate in it except according to his father's will, viz. to himself and his heirs-male. My brother's will is that I should have Runham, which is £8 a year at least, in recompense of the 10 marks out of Sporle, if he would release all his right in that manor. There is nothing touching you in my brother's[2] will, for I read it over and will write it also; "so that I woll have the same for my copy that he wrote with his own hand."

Recommend me heartily to my sister your wife.

London, 22 Feb.

[The writer of this was William, the son of the eldest John Paston, not that uncle William with whom the two younger John Pastons had so many disputes. I see nothing to fix the date beyond the fact that the letter was written after Sir John Paston's death.]

854.

A.D. 1480, 24 Feb.
William Paston to John Kyng.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

It is scarcely necessary to point out that this letter was probably written within a year after Sir John Paston's death.

[1] These two entries are bracketed together in the MS., and "Shend bi Ley" (?) written in the margin.
[2] Sir John Paston, who died in 1479.

To John Kynge, Fermour of my Maner of Hartwelbury, in Kelsall, besides Royston, be this delyverd.

JOHN KYNG, I grete yow hartely well; and I understond as well by my frende, Syr William Storar, as by Ric. Browne, that as well my kynnesman Syr John Paston that dede is, as my kynnesman John Paston that now leveth, have ben with yow, and yovyn yow many grete thretis, for that ye acordyng to the trowth, tolde unto them that ye ocupyed my maner of Harwelbury be my leese, and be my ryght. And further more I understond, notwithstondyng the seyde grete thretis, that ye, lyke a full trewe, harty frende, have delyd and fastely abedyn in my tytill, and wolde not retorne to none of them. Wherfor I hartely thank yow; and furthar more to corage yow in yowr fast dealyng, I schew onto yow that I have ryght bothe in law and in concience, wherby I promyse yow on my feythe to defende yow and save yow harmeles for the occupacion of the londe, or any thynge that ye schall doo in my titill a gaynst hym, and it schulde cost me as moche as the maner is worth, and also another tyme to doo as moche for yow, and it ly in my powre, yf ye have ony mater to doo ther as I may doo for yow.

And, also, I here say, by my seid frende, Syr William Storar, and by Ric. Brown, that ye ar of suche substaunce, and of suche trust, and suche favor in the contre ther, that it lithe in yowr powre to do a goode turne for yowr frende.

Wretyn at London, the xxiiij^{ti} day of Februari.

Be WILLIAM PASTON.

855.

Date uncertain.

GEORGE, SERVANT TO WILLIAM PASTON, TO JOHN KYNG.

We place this letter after the last for convenience. Its date is unimportant.

To John Kyng of Therfeld, in Hertfordshire.

Right trusty and welbeloved frende, I comaunde me to you. And, Ser, I tolde my maister that ye wolde have ben with him or this; for which cause he mervaileth ye kepe nat your promyse. Wherfore I avise you to come and bryng my maister his money afore this fest of Cristmasse.

And, also, ye ar yerly behynde of a boore or els ten shillinges after the price of oon bore. And where ye be owyng your boore for ij. yerys, I wolde avyse you to delyver unto Ser William Storer the seid dute, or els I counceile you to send my maister a resonable somme of money with thies boores afore Cristmasse for your thanke, consideryng his kynde dealyng, as well in sufferaunce of your money as in your owne matier.

Writen at London, the xvjth day of Decembre.

Be your frende, GEORGE,
servaunte to Mr. W. PASTON.[1]

856.

A.D. 1480-7.

JOHN, PRIOR OF BROMHOLM, TO JOHN PASTON.

[From Fenn, iii. 400.]

On the date of this letter Fenn remarks as follows:—"John Titleshale was prior of Bromholm from 1460 for about twenty years. This letter must have been written therefore either on the 14th October 1460, or on the same day in 1465, as Edward IV. married in that year, and J. Paston died in May 1466. If it was written in the former, the request [for timber] must have been to Queen Margaret; if in the latter, to Elizabeth, the Queen of Edward IV." In these observations Fenn overlooks the possibility of the letter having been addressed to any other John Paston than the first of that name: and neither of the two years, which alone suit that supposition, has much internal probability. It is inconceivable that the letter could have been written in 1460, when Queen Margaret had retired into Wales after the battle of Northampton, and it is almost equally improbable that the date could have been 1465, when John Paston, the father, was in prison. We have very little doubt that the letter was addressed to John Paston the youngest, called of Gelston, long after his father's death, and after that of his brother Sir John also. John Tytleshale, who was Prior of Bromholm in 1460, was succeeded, at what date we are not informed, by John Macham; and after him John Underwood, Bishop of Chalcedon, suffragan of the Bishop of Norwich, was prior in 1509. The date of this letter, however, must lie between 1480 and 1487, in which latter year John Paston the youngest was created a knight for his services at the battle of Stoke.

[1] The subscription is in a different hand from the letter itself, which is in a clerk's hand, very well written.

To my right worchipful maister, John Paston, Sqwyer.

RIGHT worchipful maister, I recomaunde me un to yow, desiryng to knowe of youre welfare and prosperyte, wheche Jesu maynteyne and encreese to His pleser after youre hertys desyre, thankyng yow ever of youre good maistership to me shewed at alle tymes withoute deserte on my behalve, prayng yow, and hirtely besechyng of youre goode contynuance. Please it yowre maistership, for as moche as it [is] moved on to the my good maisters, the counsell of the Duche of Lancastr, that they be weelwillyng to make laboure on to my Sovereyn Lady the Qween at youre good instaunce for certeyn tymber toward my dortour at Bromholm, in wheche myn specyall desyre is to have viij. princypall beemys, everych on in length xj. zerds. I am not expeert in makyng of any supplicacion, besechyng youre maistership to take it uppon you to do it make after your avyce, alegged all poverte, as youre worchipfull discrecion can moche better than I can enforme; and I remitte all to youre wysdam, ever besechyng you to calle this matyer to youre remembraunce. No more at this tyme, but the Holy Trinite mote have yow in His governaunce, and sende you longe lyf to endure to His pleser.

Wreten the xiiij^{e} day of Octobr.

Youre preest and chapeleyn,

JOHN, Priour of Bromholm.

857.

Not after A.D. 1481.—ABSTRACT.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

Appointment touching "Ayeseldys wyff." Her friends to labor for her acquittal of the felony, without letting of Wremmegey's wife, &c. £20 to be deposited "in mene hand" by the

friends of A's wife, to be delivered on her acquittal to Darby and other friends of W's wife. Also Master Yelverton shall have his £3 due to him from Ayseldys wife paid by both parties.

Signed—John Yelverton.

[I can find no other reference to the matter referred to in this paper, and cannot tell the date; but as John Yelverton, the son of the judge, died on the 9th July 1481 (Blomefield x. 31), it cannot be later than that year.]

858.

About A.D. 1481?

Edmund Paston to William Paston.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

There is nothing to show the date of this letter, except the fact that William Paston did not come of age before the year 1481, so that it is not likely to be earlier. Perhaps it may be a few years later, in which case the widow would not have been very much his senior; but that circumstance was not likely, in those days, to have been greatly regarded in the matter.

To my brother, Wylliam Paston, be this delyverd.

HARTELY recomawnd me to zow. Here is lately fallyn a wydow in Woorstede, whyche was wyff to one Bolt, a worstede marchaunt, and worth a m*li.*, and gaff to hys wyff a C. marke in mony, stuffe of howsold, and plate to the valew of an C. marke, and x*li.* be zere in land. She is callyd a fayer jantylwoman. I wyll for zour sake se her. She is ryght systyr, of fader and modyr, to Herry Ynglows. I purpose to speke with hym to gett hys good wyll. Thes jantylwoman is abowght xxx. zeres, and has but ij. chyldern, whyche shalbe at the dedes charge; she was hys wyff but v. zere. Yf she be eny better than I wryght for, take it in woothe I shew the leeste. Thus lete me have knowlache of zowr mynde as shortly as ze can, and whan ze shall moun be in this cuntre. And thus God send zow good helth and good aventure.

From Norwyche, the Saterday after xij^the^ day.

Your, E. Paston.

859.

Between A.D. 1481-4.
Edmund Paston to Margaret Paston.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

Fenn dates this letter 1479-80, suggesting that it must have been written very soon after Edmund Paston's marriage with the widow of William Clippesby, as it seems to imply that he had not yet carried his bride to pay her duty to his mother. I do not, for my part, know the date of this marriage, and I suspect Fenn had no other clue to it than the fact that William Clippesby, the lady's first husband, died on the 24th September 1479; but I presume his widow was still unmarried when she proved his will on the 18th May 1480 (see Blomefield, xi. 144). I consider, therefore, that the letter must have been written between the years 1481 and 1484, as Margaret Paston died in November of the latter year.

To my ryght wurchypfull and especiall good mother, Margaret Paston,

RYGHT worchypfull and moste especialle good modyr, in my moste umble wyse, with alle my dute and servyse, I recomawnd me to yow, besechynge zow of zour blyssyng, whyche is to me moste joy of erthely thynge; and it plese zow to be so good and kynd modyr to me to forgeve me, and also my wyffe, of owr leude offence that we have not don ower dute, whyche was to have seyn and ave waytyd up on zow or now. My huswyffe trustythe to ley to zow her huswyferey for her excuse, wyche I muste beseche zow not to accepte, for in good faythe I deme her mynde hathe ben other weys ocapyed than as to huswyfery, whyche semyth welle by the latchesnes of the tylthe of her landdes. I beseche God for the forderawnce of them as now rewarde zow and the good parson of Mautby, and also Mastyer Baley, who I wende woold not have balkyd this pore loggeyng to Norwyche wardes.

I undyrstand by the bryngger here of that ze entende to ryde to Walsyngham; yf it please zow that I may wete the seayson, as my dute is, I shalle be redy to awayte up on zow.

Plese it zow that the brynggar here of cam to me for x*s.* viij*d.* whyche I shuld ow hys fadyr; trew it was at my laste departyng from hym, I owte hym somych, but sertaynly or I cam at Thetfford homewardes, I thowt of concyence he owte to have restoryd me as myche. I had my horsse with hym at lyvery, and amonge alle one of them was putte to gresse and to labur, so that he dyed of a laxe by the wey. I payed for hard mete ever to hym.

Plese it zow to delyver Kateryn v*s.*, wyche I send zow in this bylle. I am not assartaynd how she is purveyde of mony towardes her jornay. Yf her fadyr cowde not acleymed j*d.* of me, I woold not se her dysporveyd, yf I myght, nor the poreste chyld that is belonggyng to hys loggeyng.

Modyr, my wyffe is boold to send zow a tokyn. I beseche zow pardon alle thyngges not done acordyng to dute. I beseche God send zow the accomplyshment of zour moste and woorchypfull desyers.

At Owby, the Saterday next before Candylmes.

Zour umble son and servant,

EDMOND PASTON.

860.

A.D. 1481, Aug.—MONASTERY OF ST. FAITH.

[Add. Charter, 17,252, B.M.]

Robertus filius domini Walteri de Mauteby militis insp[ex]sit cartas an[tiquas] . . . . concessas Deo et monasterio Sanctæ Fidis quinque quarteria salis annualis redditus . . e olim . . . . . quinque *wayes* percipienda de salinis ma[r]issi de Mauteby secundum mensuram ejusdem [mari]ssi. Quam quidem concessionem prædictus Robertus ratificat . . . . . suum sub sigillo suo quid est [1]. And this deed sawe John Paston at the seid Seynt Feythes, mense Augusti Anno xxjo Regis E.

[1] Here occurs a representation of a shield in the middle of the text of the MS.

[Q]uarti. And for this rent a . . the prior and the monkys there shewyd [to th]e seyd John, the same moneth and tyme, thes obitis foloyng tightled in the . . . . . they s[ay]d that they . . . . . whiche wold be knowyn and wachid. So the sayd . . . . the obbites . . . . . bi Maltby xij. die mensis Aprilis. Et d'ns d'nii (?)

JOHANNES DE MALTB[Y].

861.

A.D. 1482, 4 Feb.
MARGARET PASTON'S WILL.

[Add. Charter, 17,253, B.M.]

IN the name of God, amen. I, Margaret Paston, widowe, late the wiff of John Paston, Squier, doughter and heire to John Mauteby, Squier, hole of spirit and mynde, with perfite avisement and good deliberacion, the iiij[te] day of February, in the yer of Our Lord God a m[l]·cccclxxxj. make my testament and last wille in this fourme folowyng. First, I betake my sowle to God Almyghty and to Our Lady His blissed Moder, Seint Michael, Seint John Baptist, and to Alle Seintes, and my body to be beried in the ele of the cherch of Mauteby, byfore the ymage of Our Lady there. In which ele reste the bodies of divers of myn aunceteres, whos sowles God assoile.

Item, I bequethe to the high awter of the seid cherch of Mauteby xx*s.*

Item, I wulle that the seid ele in which my body shalbe beried be newe robed, leded, and glased, and the walles therof heyned [*heightened*] convenyently and werkmanly.

Item, I wulle that myn executours purveye a stoon of marble to be leyde alofte upon my grave within a yer next after my decesse; and upon that stoon I wulle have iiij. scochens sett at the iiij. corners, wherof I wulle that the first scochen shalbe of my husbondes armes and myn departed, the ij[de] of Mawtebysarmes

and Berneys of Redham departed, the iij^{de} of Mawtebysarmes and the Lord Loveyn departed, the iiij^{te} of Mawtebysarmes and Sir Roger Beauchamp departed. And in myddys of the seid stoon I wull have a scochen sett of Mawtebysarmes allone, and under the same thise wordes wretyn, "In God is my trust," with a scripture wretyn in the verges therof rehersyng thise wordes, "Here lieth Margret Paston, late the wif of John Paston, doughter and heire of John Mawteby, Squier," and so forth, in the same scripture rehersed the day of the moneth and the yer that I shall decesse: "on whos sowle God have mercy."

Item, I wulle that myn executours shall purveye xij. pore meen of my tenauntes, or other if they suffice not, the whiche I wulle shalbe apparailled in white gownes with hodes according, to holde xij. torches abowte myn herse or bere at such tyme as I shalbe beried, during the exequies and masse of my berying; which xij. torches I wille remayne in the seid cherch of Mawteby whil they may last for my yerday.

Which yerday I wull myn heire kepe in the same cherch for me my seid husbond and myn aunceteres yerly during the terme of xij. yeres next after my decesse;[1] and I wulle that ich of the seid xij. pore meen the day of my beriing have iiij*d.* Also, I wulle that iche preste being at my berying and masse have viij*d.*, and ich clerk in surplys iij*d.* Also, I wull that the preste which shall berie me have vj*s.* viij*d.*, so that he seye over me at the tyme of my berying all the whole service that to the berying belongeth.

Also, I wulle that from the day and tyme that I am beried unto the ende of vij. yeres than next folowyng be ordeyned a taper of wexe of a*l.* to brenne upon my grave ich Sonday and haliday at alle divine service to be seid or sunge in the seid cherch and dailly at the masse of that preest that shalle singe there in the seid ele for my sowle.

[1] In the margin is written in John Paston's hand, "Memorandum, v. yer to come to kepe the yerday."

Item, I wulle that vj. tapers, ich of iiij*li.*, brenne abowte myn herse the day of my beryng, of which I wull that iiij. yerly be kept to brenne abowte myn herse whan my yerday shalbe kept aslong as they may honestly serve.

Item, I wulle have an honest seculer prest to synge and pray in the seid ele for my sowle, the sowles of my father and mother, the sowle of the seid John Paston, late my husband, and for the sowlys of his aunceteres and myn during the terme of vij. yeres next after my decesse.

Item, I wulle that myn executours purveye a compleet legende in oon book, and an antiphoner in an other book, which bookes I wull be yeven to abide ther in the seid cherch to the wursship of God aslonge as they may endure.[1]

Item, I wulle that every houshold in Mauteby as hastily as it may be convenyently doo after my decesse have xij*d.*

Item, to the emendyng of the cherch of Freton in Suffolk I bequethe a chesiple and an awbe.[2]

And I wulle that ich houshold being my tenaunt there have vj*d.*

And I bequethe to the emendement of the cherch of Basyngham a chesiple and an awbe.[3]

And I wulle that every houshold there have viij*d.*

Item, I bequeth to the emendyng of the cherch of Matelask a chesiple and an awbe.[4]

And I wull that every pore houshold that are my tenauntes there have viij*d.*

Item, I bequethe to the emendyng of the cherch of Gresham a chesiple and an awbe.[5]

And I wulle that ich pore houshold that be my tenauntes there have vj*d.*

Item, I wulle that ich pore houshold late my tenauntes at Sparham have vj*d.*

[1] In margin, "v*li.* vj*s.* viij*d.*" This and the marginal notes which follow are all in John Paston's hand.
[2] In margin, "xvj*s.* viij*d.*"
In margin, "xvj*s.* viij*d.*"
[3] In margin, "xvj*s.* viij*d.*"
[4] In margin, "xvj*s.* viij*d.*"

Item, to the reparacion of the cherch of Redham there as I was borne I bequeth v. marc and a chesiple of silk with an awbe with myn armes therupon to the emendement of the same cherche.[1]

Item, to iche of the iiij. houshes of Freres in Norwich, xx*s.*

Item, to iche of the iiij. houshes of Freres of Yermouth and at the South toun to pray for my sowle I bequeth xx*s.*

Item, to the ankeres at the Frere Prechours in Norwich I bequeth iij*s.* iiij*d.*

And to the ankeres in Conesford I bequeth iij*s.* iiij*d.*

Item, to the anker at the White Freres in Norwich I bequethe iij*s.* iiij*d.*

Item, to iche hole and half susters at Normans in Norwich, viij*d.*

Item, to the Deen and his bretheren of the Chepell of Feld, to the use of the same place to seye a *dirige* and a masse for my sowle, xx*s.*

Item, to the hospitalle of Seint Gile in Norwich, also for a *dirige* and a masse for my sowle, xx*s.*

Item, to iche of the iiij. pore meen, and to either of the susters of the seid hospitall, ij*d.*

Item, to the mother cherche of Norwiche for a *dirige* and masse, xx*s.*

Item, to iche lepre man and woman at the v. Yates in Norwich, iij*d.*

And to iche forgoer at every of the seid yates, ij*d.*

Item, to iche lepre without the North gates at Yermouth, iij*d.*; and to the forgoer ther, ij*d.*

Item, to iche houshold of the parish of Seint Peter of Hungate in Norwich that wull receyve almes, have iiij*d.*

Item, I wull have a *dirige* and a masse for my sowle at the parisshe cherche of Seint Michael of Coslany in Norwich, and that every preste ther havyng his stipend being therat have iiij*d.*, and iche clerk in surplys of the same parissh than ther being have ij*d.*, and the parissh clerk vj*d.*, and the curat that shall seye high masse

[1] In margin, "*vli.*"

have xx*d.*, and I bequeth to the reparacion of the bellys of the same cherche vj*s.* viij*d.*, and to the sexteyn there to rynge at the seid *dirige* and masse, xx*d.*

Item, I wull that myn executours shall geve to the sustentacion of the parson or preste that shall for the tyme mynystre the sacramentez and divine service in the cherch of Seint Petre of Hungate in Norwich, xx*li.* of lawfull money ;[1] whiche xx*li.* I will it be putt in the rule and disposicion of the cherch reves of the same cherche for the tyme being by the oversight of the substancialle persones of the seid parissh, to this intent, that the seid cherch reves, by the oversight as is beforeseid, shall yerly yeve, if it so be that the profites of the seid cherch suffice not to fynde a prest after ther discrecions, part of the seid xx*li.* to the seid parson or preste, unto the seid xx*li.* be expended.

Item, I bequeth to Edmund Paston, my sone, a standing pece white covered, with a white garleek heed upon the knoppe, and a gilt pece covered with an unicorne, a fetherbedde and a traumsom at Norwich, and the costers [2] of worsted that he hath of me.

Item, I bequeth to Katerine his wiff a purpill girdill harneisid with silver and gilt and my bygge bras chafour, a brasen morter with an iren pestell, and a stoon morter of cragge.

Item, I yeve and graunte to Robert, sone of the seid Edmund, alle my swannes morken with the merke called Dawbeneys merk, and with the merk late Robert Cutler, clerk, to have hold and enjoye the seid swannes with the seid merkes to the seid Robert and his heirs for evermore.

Item, I bequeth to Anne, my doughter, wiff of William Yelverton, my grene hangyng in my parlour at Mauteby, a standing cuppe with a cover gilt with a flatte knoppe and a flatte pece with a cover gilt withoute, xij. silver spones, a powder boxe with a foot and a knoppe enamelled blewe, my best corse girdill blewe herneised with silver and gilt, my primer, my bedes of silver enamelled.

[1] In margin, "*xxli.*"
[2] Pieces of tapestry used on the sides of tables, beds, &c.—*Halliwell.*

Item, I bequeth to the seid Anne, my fetherbedde with sillour,[1] curteyns and tester[2] in my parlour at Mauteby, with a white covering, a peire blankettes, ij. peire of my fynest shetes iche of iij. webbes, a fyne hedshete of ij. webbes, my best garnyssh of pewter vessell, ij. basyns with ij. ewres, iij. candelstekes of oon sorte, ij. bras pottes, ij. bras pannes, a bras chafour to sett by the fyre, and a chafour for colys.

Item, I require myn executours to paie to the seid William Yelverton and Anne the money that I shall owe them of ther mariage money the day of my decesse of such money as shalbe receyved of such londes as I have putte in feffement to accomplissh my wille.

Item, I bequeth to William Paston, my sone my standing cuppe chased parcell gilt with a cover with myn armes in the botom and a flatte pece with a traill upon the cover, xij. silver spones, ij. silver saltes wherof oon is covered the hole bedde of borde alisaundre as it hangeth on the gret chaumber at Mauteby, with the fetherbedde, bolster, blankettes, and coveryng to the same, ij. peire shetes, ij. pilwes, and my best palet, a basyn, an ewre, and a litel white bedde that hangeth over the gresyngges in the litell chaumber at Mauteby for a trussyng bedde.

Item, I bequeth an C. marc in money to be paied and bestowed to the use and byhoff of the seid William Paston after this forme folowyng; that is to sey, in purchasyng of as moche lond to him and to his heires as may be had with the same money, or ellys to bye a warde to be maried to him if eny suche may be goten, or ellys to be paied to him assone as it may be convenyently gadered and receyved of sucche londes as by me are put in feffement as is beforseid after the ele in Mauteby cherche be fynsshed and performed as is beforseid, and after the stipend of the preste lymyted to singe for me be yerly levied, as well as the money be dispended upon the keping of my yerly obite. And if the seid William dye or he come to the age of

[1] Canopy of tapestry. [2] Head of the bedstead.

xxj. yer, than the seid C. marc to be disposed for the wele of my sowle by myn executours.

Item, I bequeth to John Paston my sone a gilt cuppe standyng with a cover and a knoppe liche a garkeek heed, vj. gobelettes of silver with oon cover.

Item, I bequeth to Margery Paston, the wif of the seid John, my pixt of silver with ij. silver cruettes and my massebook with all myn awterclothes.

Item,[1] I bequeth to William Paston, sone of the seid John Paston, and Elizabeth his suster, C. marc whan they come to laufull age, to be take and receyved of the londes beforseid; and if either of them die or they come to the seid age, than I wull that the part of him or hir so deying remayne to the survyver of them at laufull age, and if they bothe dye or they come to the seid age, than I wull that the seid C. marc be disposed for the helth of my sowle by th'avise of myn executours.

Item, I bequeth to Custaunce, bastard doughter of John Paston, Knyght, whan she is xx. yer of age, x. marc, and if she die bifore the seid age, than I wull that the seid x. marc be disposed by myn executours.

Item, I bequeth to John Calle, sone of Margery my doughter, xx*li.* whan he cometh to the age of xxiiij. yer, and if the seid John dye or he cometh to the seid age, than I wull that the seid xx*li.* evenly be divided attwen William and Richard, sones of the seid Margery, whan they come to the age of xxiiij. yer; and if either of the seid William and Richard dye or he come to the seid age, than I wull that the part of him so dying remayne to the survyver; and if bothe the seid William and Richard dye or the come to the seid age, than I wull that the seid xx*li.* be disposed by the good advys of myne executours for me and my frendes.

Item, I bequethe to Marie Tendalle, my goddoughter, my peir bedys of calcidenys gaudied[2] with silver and gilt.

[1] Opposite this paragraph is written in the margin in John Paston's hand: "C. marke. Solut' E. P. C. marke."

[2] Halliwell explains "gaudees" as "the larger beads in a roll for prayer." According to Palsgrave they represented the *Paternoster*.

Item, I wull that iche of myn other godchilder be rewarded by th'avyse of John Paston, my sone.

Item, I bequeth to Agnes Swan my servaunt, my musterdevelys gown furred with blak, and a girdell of blak harneised with silver gilt and enamelled, and xx*s.* in money.

Item, to Simon Gerard my silver gobelet cured and a flatt pece with verges gilt, and myn hole litel white bedde in my chapell chaumber at Mauteby with the fetherbedde liche as it is nowe in the seid chapell, with a peire blankettes, a peire shetes, and a pilwe of doune.

Item, to John Heyth a materas with a traunsom, a peire shetes, a peire blankettes, and a coverlight.

Item, I wull that myn housholt be kept after my decesse by half a yer, and that my servauntes wages be truly paied at ther departing, and also that every persone being my servaunt the day of my decesse have a quarter wages beside that they at her departing have do service fore.

Item, I wull that alle suche maners, londes, and tenementes, rentes and services whiche are descended unto me by weye of inheritaunce immediatly after my decesse remayne unto myn heires accordyng to the last wille of Robert Mauteby, Squier, my grauntfader, except suche londes as I have putte in feffement to accomplissh therof my last wille, and except v. marc of annuyte which I have graunted out of the maner of Freton in Suffolk to Edmund Paston, my sone, Katherine his wiff, and Robert, ther sone, for terme of ther lyves.

Item, I bequeth to Anne, my doughter, x*li.* to hir propre use.

And to Osbern Berney x. marc of the money comyng of the londes by me put in feffement as is beforseid.

Item, I wull that the residewe of the stuffe of myn houshold unbiquothen be divided equally betwen Edmund and William, my sones, and Anne, my doughter.

The residewe of all my godes and catalle and dettes to me owing I yeve and comitte to the good disposicion

of myn executours to performe this my testament and last wille, and in other dedes of mercye for my sowle, myn aunceterez sowlez, and alle Cristen sowles, to the most pleaser of God and profit to my sowle.

Of this my testament, I make and ordeyne the seid John Paston, Squier, my sone, Thomas Drentall, clerk, Simon Gerard and Walter Lymyngton myn executours.

And I bequeth to the seid John Paston for his labour x*li.*

And to iche of myn other executours for their labour v. marc.

In witnesse wherof to this my present testament I have putto my seal. Yevyn day and yer biforseid.

862.

A.D. 1482?

John Paston to Margaret Paston.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

This letter, which was undoubtedly written during the later years of Margaret Paston, may be conveniently placed after her will.

To my ryght worchepfull modyr, Margaret Paston.

RYGHT worchepfull modyr, in my most humble wyse I recomand me to yow, besechyng yow of your dayly blyssyng. And when I may, I I wyll with as good wyll be redy to recompence yow for the cost that my huswyff and I have put yow to, as I am now bond to thank yow for it, whyche I do in the best wyse I can. And, modyr, it pleasyd yow to have serteyn woordys to my wyff at hyr depertyng, towchyng your remembrance of the shortness that ye thynk your dayes of, and also of the mynd that ye have towardes my brethryn and systyr your chyldyr, and also of your servauntes, wher in ye

wyllyd hyr to be a meane to me, that I wold tendyr and favore the same. Modyr, savyng your plesure, ther nedyth non enbasatours nor meanys betwyx yow and me; for ther is neyther wyff nor other frend shall make me to do that that your comandment shall make me to do, if I may have knowlage of it; and if I have no knowlage, in good feyth I am excuseabyll bothe to God and yow. And, well remembred, I wot well ye ought not to have me in jelusye for one thyng nor other that ye wold have me to accomplyshe, if I overleve yow; for I wot well non oo man a lyve hathe callyd so oft upon yow as I, to make your wylle and put iche thyng in serteynte, that ye wold have done for your sylff, and to your chyldre and servauntes. Also at the makyng of your wylle, and at every comunycacyon that I have ben at with yow towchyng the same, I nevyr contraryed thyng that ye wold have doon and performyd, but alweyso ffyrd my sylff to be bownde to the same. But, modyr, I am ryght glad that my wyff is eny thyng your favore or trust; but I am ryght sory that my wyff, or eny other chyld or servaunt of your shold be in bettyr favore or trist with yow then my sylff; for I wyll and must forbere and put fro me that, that all your other chyldre, servauntes, prestys, werkmen, and frendys of your that ye wyll ought bequethe to, shall take to theym. And thys have I, and evyr wylbe redy on to, whyll I leve, on my feyth, and nevyr thought other, so God be my helpe, Whom I beseche to preserve yow and send yow so good lyff and longe, that ye may do for youre sylff and me aftyr my dyssease; and I beshrewe ther hertys that wold other or shall cause yow to mystrust, or to be unkynd to me or my frendys.

At Norwyche, thys Monday, with the hand of your sone and trwest servaunt,

JOHN PASTON.

863.

A.D. 1482, 10 April.—T. Cryne to John Paston.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

To my wurshupfull and tendrest maister, John Paston, Esquyer.

RIGH wurshepfulle, one of my most kyndest and tenderest, and undeserved most contynuell maister, I recomaunde me to you. And where your trusty maistershep willeth me to come to Norwich, pleas it you I may not; for ever, as in long tyme passed, on Thursday in Esterne Weke, begynne Maister Heydons courtes and letes, the vieu of the halfyere of the houshold accompte, the closyng up fynally of th'accomptes of alle baillievs, so that the resceyvour may make his fynall accompte, which wille extende in alle to xiiij. dayes and more; and to this season is my duete, and elles I shulde not faill your pleasure.

Moreover, pleas it you, my Lord Reviers in his owne persone hath bene atte Hikelyng, and his counseill lerned, and serched his fees for his homages, among which ye be for Begvyles pasture in Somerton, and, I suppose, Wynterton, late Sir John Fastolfes; my maistres your modre for Mawtebyes in Waxham; wherein I beseche you previde, for I have done therein hertofore, asfer as I myght, &c. What it meneth, my lord is sette sore to approwement and husbondry. His counseill hath tolde him he may sette his fynes for respite of homage at his pleasure, &c.

I besech you my maistresse may have worde of this. And oure blessed Lord ever mutte preserve you, and be your governour and defender.

Wreten at Thorplond, this Wednesday in Esterne Weke, fallyng the x. day of Aprill, anno E. iiij^{ti} xxij.

Your servaunt, T. Cryne.

864.

A.D. 1482, 9 Oct.—Abstract.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

Grant by Margaret Paston to her son Edmund and his wife Catherine and to Robert their son, of an annuity of five marks out of the manor of Freton, Suffolk, with power to distrain for payment.

9 Oct. 22 Edw. IV.

865.

A.D. 1482 (?) 1 Nov.

Margery Paston to John Paston.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

This letter, it will be seen, must have been written before the death of Margaret Paston in 1484, and from what is stated in No. 837, it is certainly not earlier than 1479. The date, however, must be between 1480 and 1482, for it is stated that the outrages here complained of occurred on the Monday and Tuesday before the letter was written; and in the next letter we find that there was a new outrage of the same description on Friday. If Hallowmas Day, the date of this letter, was a Wednesday, the year must be 1480, if a Thursday 1481, and if Friday 1482. We are rather inclined to think it was the latter.

To my right worshipfull master, John Paston, in haste.

RIGHT reverent and worshipfull sir, in my moste umble vice, I recomaunde me unto yow, as lowly as I can, &c. Plese you to wete, John Howes, Alexander Qwharteyn, John Fille, with the parson and the newe myller of Marlyngforthe, have goten Thom' At Welles carte of Estetodenham, fermour to myn uncle William Paston, Herry Hervy of Meelton Magna, fermour and baly to my seide uncle, Ric. Barkers carte of the seide towne of Meelton, late fermour, and yette is in daunger[1] to my seide uncle, and William Smythes carte of Brandon juxta Bernham Broom, late fermour and baly, and also in daunger[1] to my seide uncle, on Monday and Twesday last past, caryed a wey from Merlyngforth in to the place at Seint Edmondes in Norwich, xij. of yowr greete plankes, of the weche they made vj. loodes, beryng a bowte

[1] "In danger to" signifies either in debt or otherwise responsible to another person.

the seide cartes, bowes and gleves, for feere of takyng a wey. Sir, as for yowr servauntes of Marlyngforth, they withholde her catell and hem selfe bothe from the coorte, and come not within the lordship, nor make noon attornment, exept Thom' Davy and John Water, weche absentyng of the tenauntes is to them a greet hurt and los, for lak of sedyng ther londes with ther wynter corn; besechyng you for Godes sake to remembre som remedy for them.

My Lady Caltorp hath ben at Geppeswich on pilgry mache, and came homward be my Lady of Norffolk, and ther was moche communicacion of yowr mater be twix you and myn uncle, seyng to my Lady Caltorp, ye nede not a gonne to London, ye myght have an ende at home; rememberyng to my seid Lady Caltorp of the mocion that he made towchyng the maner of Sporle, promyttyng to my lady to abyde that, and to write and seale as largely as any man wol desire hym. And at his departyng from my lady he was not mery, what the cauce was I wot not [but he was not mery of your departyng].[1] My Lady Calthorp desireth me to write to yow to have ende, for he intendes largely to have a peace with yow, as he seth; but truste hym not to moche, for he is not goode.

My mother in lawe thynketh longe she here no word from you. She is in goode heele, blissed be God, and al yowr babees also. I mervel I here no word from you, weche greveth me ful evele; I sent you a letter be Brasiour sone of Norwiche, wher of I here no word. No more to you at this tyme, but Almyghty Jesu have you in Hes blissed kepyng.

Wreten at Norwich, on Allowmes Day at nyght.

Be yowr servaunt and bedewoman,

MARGERY PASTON.

Sir, I prey yow, if ye tary longe at London, that it wil plese to sende for me, for I thynke longe sen I lay in yowr armes.

[1] These words are crossed out in the MS.

866.

A.D. 1482? [3] Nov.
Margery Paston to John Paston.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

For evidence of date, see preliminary note to last letter.

To my ryght wurchupfull mayster, John Paston, Esquyer be this letter delyverd in hast.

YNE owyn swete hert, in my most humylwyse, I recomaund me on to you, desyryng hertly to here of your welfar, the wheche I beseche Alle myghty God preserve and kepe to His plesur, and your hertes desyer.

Ser, the cause of my wrytyng to you at this tyme: on Fridy att nyght last past come Alexander Wharton, John Hous, and John Fille, with ij. good carts well mannyd and horsyd with hem to Marlyngford, and there at the maner of Malyngford and at the mille lodyn bothe cartes with mestlyon[1] and whete, and betymys on Saturday, in the mornyng, they departyd fro Marlyngford towardes Bongey, as it is seyd; for the seyd cartes come fro Bongey, as I soppose, by the sendynge of Bryon, for he goth hastyly over the se, as it is seyd. And as I suppose he wyll have the mestlyon over with hym, for the most part of the cart loodes was mestlyon, &c.

Item, ser, on Saturday last past, I spacke with my cosyn Gornay, and he seyd, if I wold goo to my Lady of Norffolk, and beseche hyr good grace to be your good and gracyous lady, she wold so be, for he seyd that one word of a woman should do more than the wordes of xx. men, yiffe I coude rewyll my tonge, and speke non harme of myn unkyll. And if ye comaund me so for to do, I trist I shuld sey nothynge to my ladys

[1] Mixed corn, commonly rye and wheat, which were most in demand to make bread of.

displesure, but to your profyt; for me thynkyth bi the wordes of them and of your good fermore of Oxned, that thei wyll sone drawe to an ende. For he cursyth the tyme that ever he come in the ferme of Oxned, for he seyth that he wotyth well that he shall have a grette losse, and yet he wyll not be a knowyn wheder he hathe payd or nought; but whan he sethe his tyme, he wyll sey trowth.

I understond by my seyd cosyn Gornay that my lady is nere wery of hyr parte, and he seyth my lady shal come on pylgremage in to this towne, but he knowth not wheder afore Cristmes or aftyr; and if I wold thanne gete my Lady Calthorpe, my moder in lawe, and my moder, and myselfe, and come before my lady, besechyng hyr to be your good and gracyous lady, he thynkyth ye shull have an ende; for fayne she wold be redde of it with hyr onowr savyd, but yette money she wold have.

No more to you at this tyme, butte I mervell sore that I have no letter from you, but I prey God preserve you, and send me good tydynges from you, and spede you well in your materes. And as for me, I have gotyn me anothyr logyn felawe, the ferst letter of hyr name is Mastras Byschoppe. She recomaundyth hyr to you by the same tokyn that ye wold have had a tokyn to my Mayster Bryon.

Att Norwych, the Sonday next after the Fest of All Seyntes.

Be yowr servaunt and bedewoman,
MARGERY PASTON.

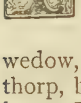
867.

WILLIAM PASTON AND SIR JOHN FASTOLF.

[Add. Charter 17,256, B.M.]

This declaration was drawn up after the death of William Worcester, and perhaps after that of William Paston also. The exact date of Worcester's death is uncertain. We only know that he was alive as late as 1478 (see No. 817), and that he was dead in Richard III.'s time. Probably he died in that year of great mortality, 1479. The document, however, may be con-

veniently placed at the end of the reign of Edward IV. The original MS. is a sheet of paper mutilated on the right-hand side towards the end. The seals of William Barker and Margaret Worcester are attached by tails of parchment to a parchment binding at the bottom. On the back is written in a more modern hand:— "A Testymonyall that William Paston, Gent., was kinsman to Sir Jo. Fastolf, and other matters within concernyng the landes somtyme Holhams in Caster, afterwardes the sayd William Pastons."



O alle maner of pepill to whome this present wrytyng shall come unto, se, or here, we, William Barker, late of Blofeld, in the cownte of Norffolk, clark, and Margret Wyssetour, wedow, late the wyf of William Wyssetyr, late of Pokethorp, be Norwich, gentylman, dyssesid, send gretyng in our Lord God Everlastyng.

For as meche as it is merytory to wytnesse and testyfy the treuth in materes dowtabill or beyng in varyaunce, whan ony persons is lefully ther to requyred, It is so that I, the seid William Barker, was late howshold servaunte be the space of xxj. yere with Sir John Fastolf, Knyght, dyssesid, and had wedded Annes, late dyssesid, that was the hoole syster, bothe on to Sir Thomas Howes, clerk, dyssesid, and also hoole syster to Isabell, modyr to the seid Margret Wyssetyr, which forseid Thomas Howys and William Wyssetyr were bothe howshold servauntes many yerys to the seid Sir John Fastolf, and were with hym in such syngler trust that he made them bothe his feoffes in alle his landes with in the reame of Ynglond, and also his exsecutores: Be it knowen to alle maner persons that we, the seid William Barker and Margret Wyssetyr, testyfy, depose, and wytnesse for trouthe that we have full serteyn prof and knowlache that William Paston, of the seid counte of Norffolk, jentylman, was kynnysman unto the seid Sir John Fastolf, and was with hym in ryght syngler gode favour and trust; wherupon the seid Sir John Fastolf made the seid William Paston one of his seid feoffes in all his seyd maneres, londes, and tenementes, rentes, and servyces with in this seid reame of Ynglond, and made this seid William prevy to many of his materys of gret charge, and putt the

seid William Paston to many lawbores in his lyf, which the seid William Paston ded of gode love and kynd dysposycion, for he never had of the seid Sir John Fastolf fee ne reward in hys lyf; notwithstondyng he had for the seid Syr John Fastolff and for his materes many grete lawboures, costes, jornays, and besynesse in the lyf of the seid Sir John Fastolf, and ded for hym many kynd dedes at his owne charge, for the which the seid Sir John, and he had contenuyd lyff, wold have largely have recompensed. And also the seid William Paston had, aftir the desesse of the seid Sir John Fastolf, at the desyr and instans of the exsecutores of the seid Syr John, had many gret lawboures, costes, and jurnays to his gret peyne, as well in rydyng to London many and sundry tymes, contenuyng many yeres to help suche materes as were devysyd ayens the seid exsecutors, and also to answer to suche accions and sutys and byll putt into the Kynges Chauncery, wherupon wryttes of *subpena* dyvers and many tymes made upon gret peynys were delyvered to the seid William to appere in the Kynges Chauncery, which were taken be gret astates and be suche myghty persons as wold have recoveryd the lond wrongfully, and thus trobelyd the seid William Paston, be cause he was a feffee, and taryd hym there and his councell to his gret inportunabill charges. Wherupon we, the seid William Barker and Margret Wyssetyr depose, wytnesse, and be this present sertyfye for trouthe that we war present whan the seid Sir Thomas Howys and William Wyssetyr, in parcell of recompens of suche forseid lawbours and costes as the seid William Paston had had, as wele in the lyfe of the seid Sir John as after his dyssese, graunted and yaf to the seid William Paston a peyer of basons coveryd of sylver of Parysh towche and over gylt, powncyd and imbossyd with rooses, and with grete large amellys [*enamels*] in the botome of bothe basons, with serteyn bestys inbossyd stondyng with inn an hegge of sylver and gylt upon the seid amellys, which bothe basons ded way of Troy weyt ix^{xx} unces, and

also a gredeyren of sylver of Parysse towche, not gylt, weying of Troy weyth ——[1] unces, and also a gret chargeour of sylver of Parysse towche, not gylt, weying of Troy weyth ——[1] unces, to have and to hold to the seid William, his eyres, excecutores, and assignes, as his own godes for ever. And also we wytnesse that we ware also present whan, for a serteyn som of mony to be payd be the seid William Paston, whereof a parte be comenawnt was payd be the seid William Paston to the seid Sir Thomas Howys, and a parte to on Edmond Holkham, and the remenaunt was payd to one Margret Holkham, syster to the seid Edmond; and so the seid William Paston had clerly payed all the seid mony. The seid Thomas Howse and William Wyssetyr bargayned, sold, and graunted to the seid William Paston, his eyres, exsecutores, and assignes, in fee sympille for ever, a tenement called Methis, otherwyse called Holkham, with alle the londes and tenementes, rentes and servyces, free or bond, and with all the apportenaunces ther to belongyng, in the town of Cayster ond oder townnys adjoynyng with inne the seid cownte of Norffolk, and delyvered to the seid [William] Paston and to his assignes a state of all the seid tenementes, londes, rentes, and servyces, with all the seid aportenaunces . . . . . sold and bargayned to the seid William Paston alle suche londes, rente, and servyces as the seid Sir John Fastolf . . . . . or be the ryght of ony manere that he or ony man to his use had in possession, or that the seid Thoma[s] . . . . . ony other be the reson that they were feffes of trust of the seid John Fastolf had or claymed to have . . . . . or claymed to have to be yssant or chargeabill oute or upon the seid tenement called Methe[s] . . . . . londes, tenementes, rentes, servyces at ony tyme afore or than longyng to the seid tenement or owt . . . . . a manere called Hornyng-hall, with the apportenaunces, late Clerys, in the seid

[1] Blank in original.

town of Castyr, to have [and to hold to the said William] Paston, his eyres and assygnes, the seid lond, rent, and servyce for ever mor. And utterly be ther dede and . . . . . and dyscharged the seid William Paston, his eyres and his assygnes for yeldyng of payment of ony . . . . . servyce; and also dyscharged all the seid tenement and the seid manere, and alle oder the premysses, with alle the . . . . . as now have or shalle here aftir be possessoneres of the seid tenement or manere with the aportenaunces . . . . . more. Alle whiche mater afore rehersid, and every parte therof, we, the seid William Barker and Margre[t Wyssetyr . . . . .] trew, and we, and iche one of us, will at alle tyme be redy to wytnesse and depose the same be ony suche . . . . . persones outh to do or may do afore ony Juge Spyrytualle or Temperall as we will answer a fore God [at the dreadful] day of Dome. In wytnesse wherof we, the seid William Barker and Margret Wyssetyr, to this present have sett to our [sealles].

Wretyn the ——— [1] day of the ——— [1] yer of the reyn of Kyng.[2]

(L. S.) (L. S.)

868.

ABSTRACT.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

W. BARKER TO [MARGARET PASTON ?].

Begs her "maystrasshipp" to inform his rightworshipful master of the conduct of Master Keche at Wetyng, who on Monday means to be there with a great fellowship.

[This letter is unimportant, but as being written by William Barker it may conveniently be placed after the last No., although probably addressed to Margaret Paston, and if so, most likely during the life of her husband. It appears by inquisition *post mortem*, 1 Edw. IV., No. 46, that Elizabeth, Countess of Oxford, held the manor of Weting in Feltwell of the Duke of Norfolk.]

[1] Blanks in MS. [2] So in MS.

869.

John Paston's Books.

[From Fenn, ii. 300.]

This is a catalogue of the books either of John Paston the younger or of John Paston, Knight, most probably the former, drawn up in the reign of Edward IV., but owing to the decay of the original MS. we cannot tell in what year. It certainly could not have been earlier than 1474, when "the Game and Play of Chess," the first book printed in England, issued from Caxton's press at Westminster. It is in itself a remarkable thing that the expression "in print" should have got into use even during the reign of Edward IV.; but one may suppose that such an expression could hardly have been current for at least a year or two after the first printed book appeared. We therefore, without deciding the year, place the paper at the end of King Edward's reign.

The Inventory off Englysshe Boks off John . . . . . made the v. daye of Novembre, anno regni Regis E. iiij. . . . .

1. A boke had off myn ostesse at the George . . . . off *the Dethe off Arthr begynyng at Cassab*[*elaun, Guy Earl of*] *Warwyk, Kyng Ri. Cur de Lyon, a Cronic*[*le*] . . . . . *to Edwarde the iij.*, prec. . . . . .

2. Item, a Boke of Troylus whyche William Bra . . . . . hath hadde neer x. yer, and lent it to Dame . . . . Wyngefelde, and *ibi ego vidi;* valet . . . . .

3. Item, a blak Boke with *the Legende off Lad*[*ies, la Belle Dame*] *saunce Mercye, the Parlement off Byrd*[*es, the Temple of*] *Glasse, Palatyse and Scitacus, the Me*[*ditations of . . . .*] *the Greene Knyght; valet,*— . . . . . .

4. Item, a Boke in preente off the Pleye off the [Chess].

5. Item, a Boke lent Midelton, and therin is *Bele Da*[*me sans*] *Mercy the Parlement of Byrds, Balade . . . . . off Guy and Colbronde, off the Goos th . . . . . , the Dysputson bytwyen Hope and Dyspeyr, ... Marehaunts, the Lyffe of Seynt Cry*[*stofer*].

6. A reede Boke that Percyvall Robsart gaff m[e] . . . . . *off the medis off the Masse, the Lamentacion* . . . . . *off Chylde Ypotis, a Preyer to the Vernyclr* . . . . . callyd *the Abbeye off the Holy Goost,* . . . . .

7. Item, in quayers :—Tully *de Senectute* in . . . . . wheroff ther is no mor cleer wretyn . . . . . .

8. Item, in quayers :—Tully, or Cypio,[1] *de Ami[citia]*[2] leffte with William Worcester; valet . . . . .

9. Item, in qwayers, a Boke of the Polecye of In . . . . .

10. Item, in qwayers, a Boke *de Sapiencia* . . . . . wherin the ij. parson is liknyd to Sapi[ence] . . . .

11. Item, a Boke de Othea,[3] text and glose, valet . . . . . in quayers.

Memorandum,[4] myn olde Boke off Blasonyngs off a[rms].

Item, the nywe Boke portrayed and blasoned.

Item, a copy off Blasonyngs off armys and th . . . . names to be fownde by letter.

Item, a Boke with armys portrayed in paper . . . . .

Memorandum, my Boke of Knyghthod and the man[er] off makyng off Knyghts, off Justs, off Tor[neaments] ffyghtyng in lystys, paces holden by so[ldiers] . . . . . and chalenges, statuts off weer, and *de Regim[ine Principum]*, valet . . . . .

Item, a Boke off nyw Statuts ffrom Edward the iiij.

[1] Quære if Cypio is not a mistake from "Semnium Scipionis," a piece which is usually printed with the "de Amicitia," and probably accompanied it in this manuscript.—F.

[2] It is a curious circumstance that this book should be here mentioned as left with William Worcester, who with the assistance of John Tiptoft, Earl of Worcester, and John Phrea or Free, a monk of Bristol, translated it.—F.

[3] *See* Vol. II. p. 335, note 1.

[4] These further memoranda seem to have been added at a later period, probably in the reign of Henry VII., as the last entry is of "a book of new statutes from Edward IV."

870.

Verses by a Lady.

[From Fenn, ii. 304.]

It is not apparent by whom these verses were written, or to what lord they were addressed. They may have been from the Countess of Oxford to her husband after he escaped abroad in 1471 (see No. 669). Or they may have been the production of Lydgate writing in the name of a lady parted from her lord. We place them, as Fenn did, for convenience, at the end of the letters of Edward's time.

Verses written by a Lady in the reign of Henry VI. or Edward IV. to an absent Lord with whom she was in love.

MY ryght good lord, most knyghtly gentyll knyght,
On to your grace in my most humbyll wyse,
I me comand, as it is dew and ryght,
Besechyng yow at leyser to advise
Upon thys byll, and pardon myn empryse,
Growndyd on foly, for lak of provydence,
On to your lordshep to wryght with owght lycence.

But wher a man is with a fevyr shake,
Now hot, now cold, as fallyth by aventure,
He in hys mynd conjecte wyll, and take
The nyghest meane to worche hys cuyre,
More pacyently hys peynys to endure;
And ryght so I, so it yow not dysplease,
Wryght in thys wyse my peynys to apease.

For when I cownt and mak a reknyng
Betwyx my lyfe, my dethe, and my desyer,
My lyfe, alas! it servyth of no thyng
Sythe with your partyng, depertyd my plesyer.
Wyshyng your presence setyth me on fyer;
But then your absence dothe my hert so cold,
That for the peyne I not[1] me wher to hold.

O owght on absence, ther foolys have no grace,

[1] "I not" stands for "I ne wot," or "I wot not," that is, *I know not.*

I mene mysylf, nor yet no wytt to gwye
Theym owt of peyne to com on to that place,
Wher as presence may shape a remedye;
For al dysease, now fye on my folye,
For I dyspeyryd am of your soone metyng,
That God I prey me to your presence bryng.

Farwell, my lord, for I may wryght no more,
So trowblyd is my hert with hevynesse;
Envye also, it grewyth me most sore,
That thys rude byll shall put hym sylf in presse[1]
To se your lordshepe of hys presumptuousnesse
Er I my sylf; but yett ye shall not mysse
To have my hert to for my byll, I wys.

Whyche I comytt and all my hole servyse
Into your hands, demeane it as you lyst;
Of it I kepe[2] to have no more franchyse
Then I hertlesse swyrly me wyst,
Savyng only that it be as tryst,[3]
And to yow trew as evyr was hert, and pleyn
Tyll cruell dethe depart yt up on tweyn.

Adew dysport, farwell good companye,
In all thys world ther is no joye I weene;
For ther as whyleom I sye with myn iee,
A lusty lord leepyng upon a grene,
The soyle is soole, no knyghts ther be seen,
No ladyse walk ther they wer wont to doone;
Alas, some folk depertyd hense to soone.

Some tyme also men myght a wageor make,
And with ther bowys a ffeld have it tryed,
Or at the Paame ther, ther plesure for to take,
Then wer they loose, that now stand as tyed,
I not[4] wher to thys world may be aplyed;
For all good cher on evyn and on morow,
Whyche then was made, now tornyth me to sorow.

[1] Readiness.—F. [2] I care.—F.
[3] *Quære*, whether this means *sorrowful* or *trusty*.—F.
[4] *See* Note, p 302.

871—873.

Abstracts.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

The letters following are all probably of the reign of Edward IV., but their dates are quite uncertain.

871.—J. Paston [of Gelston] to Richard Croft.

Will not venture to ride in this weather, not being well at ease. Sends three bills of John Calle and Robert Salle's receipts and payments brought by the former. Cannot find the new fermall of Caster here, so he has given the bearer the key of his coffer at Yarmouth. If you would ride with him, I think you will find it there. Agrees to John Wynne's bills, desiring to be allowed £5 for Byshoppis of Yarmouth, and for herring delivered to my cousin Loveday; but John Wynne must not sell my farm barley to pay them, as I wish all the barley in his charge malted for my Lord Mountjoy. I send a warrant for the sheriff to warn the persons in Flegge and Yarmouth impanelled between the King and me to be at Thetford assizes on Wednesday next. Give it to Simon Garrard.

Norwich, Wednesday.

872.—Sir Thomas Hert to his worshipful Mistress, [Margaret Paston?].

Giving her an account of the numbers of her sheep and lambs at Sparham from Drayton and Taverham, and those with the shepherd at Heylesdon.

Heylisdon, Thursday before Lady Day the Nativity.[1]

[Under this letter is written in a modern hand—"37 H. 6." but this date is certainly too early. Thomas Hert was Vicar of Stalham in 1482.]

873.—John Downyng to Edmund Paston.

Is a simple servant of his mother and miller of Wood Mill. Complains of Will. Sybbeson, whom Edmund Paston well knows to have been "defawtyf in many other thyngs," and who embezzles wheat and rye, and prevents him getting any good of a close he holds of Paston's mother.

North Walsham, Thursday before St. Brice.[2]

[Some memoranda of receipts are written across the back.]

[1] The Nativity of St. Mary the Virgin, 8th September.
[2] St. Brice's Day is 13th November.

The Paston Letters.

Edward V.

874.

A.D. 1483, 11 June.

Richard, Duke of Gloucester, to Lord Nevill.

[From Fenn, v. 302.]

This letter was not a part of the Paston correspondence, but was printed by Fenn in the series as a letter of much historical interest from a copy given him by the Rev. John Brand, secretary to the Society of Antiquaries. The following memoranda accompanied the copy:—

"Extract from an ancient MS. of pedigrees, &c., in quarto, late in the possession of Sir Walter Blackett, Bart., and now the property of John Erasmus Blackett, Esq., Alderman of Newcastle-upon-Tyne; p. 333, under title of '*A Coppie of some Letters which were found in Rabie Castle after the Rebellion, to shew the fashion . . . . of those times.*' The above MS. is of the date of James I., though there are several continuations in a more modern hand.

"This copy has doubtless been a transcript of an original letter of the Duke of Gloucester, afterwards King Richard III., and written just before his seizure of the crown.

"Raby Castle is in the county of Durham."

Fenn adds that it does not appear clearly who this Lord Nevill was. But as the letter was found in Raby Castle after the great rebellion of the Earls of Northumberland and Westmoreland in 1569, we may presume it was addressed to one of that family of Nevills, the heads of which were Earls of Westmoreland. In 1483 the Earl of Westmoreland's name was Ralph Nevill, but he died in the year following, and was succeeded in the title by Ralph, son and heir of his brother Sir John Nevill, who was slain at Towton. Probably it was this Ralph, then heir-presumptive to the earldom, who is here called Lord Nevill.

To my Lorde Nevyll, in hast.

MY Lorde Nevyll, I recommaunde me to you as hartely as I can; and as ever ye love me, and your awne weale and securty, and this Realme, that ye come to me with that ye may make, defensably arrayde, in all the hast that ys possyble, and that ye wyll yef credence to . . . . . Richarde Ratclyff, thys beerrer, whom I nowe do sende to you, enstructed with all my mynde and entent.

And, my lord, do me nowe gode servyce, as ye have always befor don, and I trust nowe so to remember you as shalbe the makyng of you and yours. And God sende you goode fortunes.

Wrytten att London, xj. day of Jun, with the hande of your hertely lovyng cousyn and master,

R. GLOUCESTER.

875.

Not after A.D. 1483.

ELIZABETH, DUCHESS OF SUFFOLK, TO JOHN PASTON.

[From Fenn, ii. 292.]

This is a holograph letter of Elizabeth, Duchess of Suffolk, the sister of Edward IV. There can be little doubt that the Lord Chamberlain referred to is the Lord Hastings, who has been very frequently mentioned in this correspondence; and if so, the letter cannot be later than 1483, as he was beheaded in that year on the 13th June, by order of the Protector Richard, Duke of Gloucester. We may therefore place it for convenience among the letters of Edward V.'s time, though undoubtedly it may be a few years earlier. Facsimiles of the original, both back and front, are given by Fenn. It is endorsed in the hand of John Paston the younger, (certainly not in that of his brother Sir John, as Fenn supposed)—"Littra Ducisse Suff."

On to Jan Paston, in haste.

ASTYR PASTON, I pray yow that it may plese yow to leve yowr logeyng for iij. or foro days tyl I may be porved of anodyr, and I schal do as musche to yowr plesyr. For Godys sake, say me not nay; and I pray yow rekomaund me to my Lord Chambyrleyn.

Yowr frend,

ELIZABETH.

The Paston Letters.

Richard III.

876.

A.D. 1483, 10 Oct.

John, Duke of Norfolk, to John Paston.

[From Fenn, ii. 314.]

Sir John Howard was created Duke of Norfolk on the 28th June 1483, and was killed in the battle of Bosworth on the 22d August 1485. This letter seems to have been written in October 1483, when it first became known that a series of insurrections were about to take place in different counties, of which the Duke of Buckingham was the principal leader. It was on the 12th October, just two days after this letter was written, that King Richard himself at Lincoln heard of Buckingham's intended treason.

To my right welbeloved frynde, John Paston, be this delivred in hast.

RIGHT welbeloved frynde, I comaunde me to you. It is soo that the Kentysshmen be up in the weld, and sey that they wol come and robbe the cite, which I shall lett yf I may.

Therefore I pray you that with alle diligence ye make you redy and com hidder, and bring with you six talle felaws in harnesse, and ye shall not lyse yowr labour, that knoweth God, Whoo have you in His keping.

Written at London, the xth day of October.

Yowr frend, J. Norffolk

877.

A.D. 1484.—Abstract.

[From a MS. in the Bodleian Library.]

Proviso to be inserted in an Act of Parliament in favor of Margaret, widow of John Paston, touching her right to the manor of Castre.

Below is written—"Guy Fayrefax, Knyght, [Ric. Pygot, one of the King's Serjeants of the Law,][1] and Roger Townesend, [another of][1] the King's Serjeants of the Law."

[This proviso must have been drawn up in connection with some measure that was to have come before the Parliament of January 1484. Earlier it cannot be, as Roger Townesend was not appointed King's Serjeant till June 1483; and as Margaret Paston died in November 1484, it could not possibly be later.]

878.

A.D. 1484, 8 Feb.—Abstract.

[From a Document transcribed by Sandford in his Genealogy of the Paston Family, and printed by Mr. Worship in the *Norfolk Archæology*.]

Release by John, Duke of Norfolk, and William, Earl of Nottingham, kinsman and heir of John, late Duke of Norfolk, to John Paston, Esq., brother and heir of Sir John Paston, Knight, of all right and title in the manor of Caister called Redehams, Vawx, and Bosouns by Great Yarmouth, of which Sir John Paston was disseised unjustly by the said late Duke.

879.

A.D. 1484, 1 May.
The Duke of Suffolk to Thomas Jeffreys.

[From Fenn, ii. 316.]

The Duc of Suffolk.

To Thomas Jeffreys our ffermour of Maundevills, greting.

[1] Scored out.

WE wole and streitly charge you that ye content and paie unto the bringer herof for money imployed in our houshold thre pound thretteenne shillings and foure pens for such stuff as we our owne person have promysed, and not to be failed upon our worship. Of the which some of lxxiij*s.* iiij*d.* so by you contented and paied, we wole and also stretly charge our auditors for the tyme being, by virtu of this our writing, signed with our hand, to make you dew and pleyn allowaunce at your next accompt.

At Wingfeld. the first day of May in the first yer of Kyng Richard the III^de^.

SUFFOLK.

And ffayle not on peyn [of] losyng off yor fferme.

880.

A.D. 1484.—Complaints of John Paston against his Uncle William.

[From Add. Charter 17,257, B.M.]

It appears from the contents that this paper must have been drawn up nearly five years after Sir John Paston's death. It is a corrected draft, apparently of a Bill in Chancery, and some of the corrections are in Sir John Paston's hand.

All so the seyde John Paston, now compleynaunt, seyth that John Paston, fadyr off the same John, was seased off the maner callyd Hollwellhawe, wyth th'appurtenaunces in Estodenham, joyntly wyth all the londis, tenementes, rentes, and services, whyche sume tyme were John Jerham, Ewstase Rows, John Davy,[1] vikere off the chyrche off Estodenham, ande Water Danyell, or any off thers, lyeng in the townys off Estodenham, Mateshalle, Mateshalebergh, and othir townys adjoynyng, ande off all the londis and tenementes, rentes, services, and lybertes wyth ther appurtenaunces callyd Toleys, lyeng in the townys off Wymondham and Carleton and othir townys adyoynyng, whyche sume tyme were William Thuxston; and off the scite off on mese [*messuage*] wyth a pece londe lyenge in a croffte to the same

[1] He was vicar of East Tuddenham from 1398 to 1434.

mese adyoynyng, wyche is accomptyde xiiij. acres off londe wyth th'appurtenaunces, callyd Colneys, othyr wys callyd Whynnes in Carleton ——[1] in hys demeane as off ffee; ande so beyng seased ther off, up on trust enffeffede William Yelverton, Justys, John Fastolff, Knyght, Myles Stapelton, Knyght, and othir, to be hadde to them and theyr heyrs for ever, be the fores wher off they were ther off seased in theyr demeane as off ffee, ande afftyr the seyd ffeffment in forme afforseyd mad, the seyd John Paston the fadyr disseassed. The ryght off the whyche maner, londis, tenementes, and othir the premysses, afftyr the desses of the seyd John the fadyr, owith to come to the seyd John, now compleynaunt, as sone and heyr off the seyd John Paston, ffor as myche as the seyd John the fadyr made no wylle nor mencyon of the aforseyd maner, londis, tenementes, nor off othir the premysses, whyche maner, londis, and tenementes, and othir the premysses the seyd William Paston hath, and agenst the cours of the lawe ocupyeth.

Item, the seid John requerith an astate to be takyn in those londys lymyted to William the sone for deffaut off issu off Clement Paston by the will of there fadir accordyng to the seid will, as well as in those londis that ar or shuld be purchased with the m^l. [1000] mark accordyng to th'endentur mad by twyn th'executors of William Paston, Justice, that is to sey, to the seid William the son, and to the eyres of his body, and for defaute of yssue of his bodye, to remayn to th'eyers of William Paston, Justice, which the seid John is.

All so the seyd John Paston, now compleynaunt, seyth that ther be decayed at Marlyngfford and Oxenhed be meane off th'enterupsion off the seyd William tweyn water melles, wher off iche was letyn ffor x. marke be yer. And all so othir howsyng be the same ockasion at Oxenhed, Marlyngfford, Stansted, and Orwelbury decayed to the hurt off the seyd John Paston off v.C. [500] mark whech the seyd John Paston desyreth to be recompensede.

Item, the seid John axith of the seid William for wast don in the maner of Paston for lak of reparacion, xl*li.*

Item, the seid William hath takyn awey owth of the maners of John Paston, that is to sey, of hes maners of Paston, Oxened, Marlyngford, Stansted, and Horwelburye, siche stoff and greynys, catell and hotilementis of the seid maners as were agreyd be the executors of the seyd William Paston, Justyse, to be left and latyn with the seid maners to the value of xl*li.*

Item, the seid John axith to be restored to all the evydence longyng to the maners aforesaid and other the premysses which the seid William wrongfully witholdith.

Item, the seid John axith to hys possession which he hath of [and] in the maner of Caster and other maners adyongnyng, the relesse of all such title and interest as the seid William hath be wey of

[1] Blank in MS.

feffement in the foresaid maner and maners, in like forme as other his cofeffes have in tyme past relassed to Sir John Paston, whoos eyre the seid John is.

Also, the seid John Paston desireth the performance of diverse comenauntis and articles conteyned in diverse indentures and writynges mad be the avise of the reverend fadir in God, William, Bisschoppe of Lyncolne,[1] supervisour of the testement of the seid William Paston, Justice, bytwix th'executors of the same William Paston for kepyng of the trewe intent and will of the seid William Paston, Justice, as by the same indentures and writynges redye to be schewed more pleynlye shall appere, the entent and performance of which writyng is interupted and brokyn by the seid William Paston and his meanys to the hurt and damage off the seyd John Paston, now compleynaunt off ——.[2]

Item, the seid William hath, contray to trouuth and conscience, vexed and trouubled and put to cost and charge the seid John nowe be the space of v. yer saffe a quarter,[3] and hath distorbede the same John to take and perceyve th'issus and profetes off the same maners, to the hurt and damage off the seyd John in defendyng of his right off and in the maners afforeseyd of ij. ml. mark, besyde greffe, gret labour and disseace that the seid John hath dayly be putt onto by th'okcasion afforseyd.[4]

Item, accordyng to the will of William Paston, Justice, the seid John axith to be restored to parth of such goodis as hath ben dispendid by John Paston the fader, Sir John Paston, and the seid John nowe compleynaunt, in defence, kepyng, and recoveryng of such londis as were William Paston, Justice, which draweth above the summa of ml*li*.

Item, where on ———[5] Lomnor had a cofur in kepyng and and D.ml. mark in the same be extymasion to the use of John Paston, fadir of the forsayed Sir John and John, the seid William Paston fraudelently atteyned the seid cofur wyth the seyd sume of money after the dissece of the seid John the fadir, and had it in his kepyng serteyn dayes, and did with it his pleasur unknowyn to the seid Sir John Paston and John Paston, his brother; and after at Herry Colettes[6] house the seid William brought the seid cofur to the seid John Paston, Knyght, and there openyd the seid cofur, where was then lefte but CC. old noblis which wer by extymacion in value C*li*. And the seid William toke ther the seid gold awey with hym, ageyn the will of seid Sir John, and witholdith the same, whereof the seyd John preyeth to be restored.

Item, the seid William atteynyd and gate a peyer of basons of silver and parte or all gilt from the seid Sir John Paston and John Paston, now compleynaunt, abouuth such season as he toke the

[1] William Alnwick, Bishop of Lincoln, who died in 1449.
[2] Blank in MS.
[3] Originally written "a yere and more," and corrected.
[4] This paragraph is very much corrected.
[5] Blank in MS.
[6] Father of the celebrated Dean Colet.

cofur and coyne aforerehersed, which basons were in value C. mark; and the seid William yet witholdith the seid basons, to the whyche the seyd John preyeth also to be restored.

Item, the seid William gate in to his possession a charger of silver in value x. marke, and iij. bollys of silver that were in kepyng of Bacheler Water, a Frier Carmelit of Norwich, to th'entent that a certeyn coost shuld have ben doon upon the liberarye of the Friers Carmelites aforesaid for the sowlis of William Paston, Justice, and Augnes, his wiff; which charger and bollys the seid William yet withholdith and kepith to his his owne use, and therfore the seid charges ar not fulfylled.

Item, the seid John axith restitucion of suche inportable charges as the seid William hathe put the forsaid Sir John onto by the space of many yeres, as in plesures doyng and rewardis, which apperith by writyng of the hande of the seid Sir John; which pleasures and charges the seid Sir John was constreyned to doo in defence of the seid William; wher of the seid John axeth to have amendys of Cl. mark.

Item, by the occacion and meanys of the seid William, the seid Sir John was constreyned to lende onto the Reverende Fadere in God, George, late Archebsschop of York[1] ml. mark, which was nat payed ageyn by the summa of C*li.* The seid John axith to be restorid ther of.

Item, the seid William hath fellyd tymbre and wodys in the maners of the seid John, that is to sey, the maners of Oxened and Marlyngford, to the hurth of the seid John of xx*li.*

Item, the seyd John Paston, compleynaunt, axith to be restoryd to alle syche money as hathe be takyn and dyspendyd by alle siche persones as have ben assigned by meanes of the seyd Wylliam to distorbe and interupt the seyd John, compleynaunt, of hys ryght, tyghtyll, possessyon, entrest, of and in the maners, londis, and tenementes, and other the premysses dwryng the seyd v. yer sauff a quarter, as well as to all syche money as hathe ben dyspendyd dwryng the seyd v. yer sauff a quarter by the servauntys of the seyd compleynaunt by hym assigned to tery and abyd up on the seyd maners, londes, and tenementes, and other the premysses ther, to kepe the possessyon of the seyd compleynaunt, whyche extendith to the some of xl*li.* and above.

Item, the seyd John, compleynaunt, axith to be restoryd to all syche money as hathe bene receyved by meanys of the seyd William, dwryng the seyd v. yer sauff a quarter, of syche as ar or have ben fermors or tenauntes of the maners, londis, and tenementis aforseyd duryng the seyd season, as well as to all syche money as is not levyable of dyvers of the seyd fermors and tenauntes fallyn in poverte sythe the trowblows season of the v. yer sauff a quarter befor rehersed, whyche extendeth to the some of CC*li.* or above.

1 George Nevill, Archbishop of York, died on the 8th June 1476.

881.

A.D. 1484 (?) 24 Dec.

Margery Paston to John Paston.

[From Fenn, ii. 330.]

Fenn supposes with great probability that this letter was written in 1484, the year of Margaret Paston's death. No earlier date is possible, seeing that even in 1484 John Paston's eldest son was only in his seventh year, and he had at the date of this letter two sons capable of being sent on messages; so that, if anything, we should be inclined to put it later. But we know of no later death in the family that could have occasioned the writing of such a letter, and the time of Margaret Paston's death and of the proving of her will agree very well with Fenn's hypothesis. From the calendar prefixed to an old MS. missal in the possession of Mr. C. W. Reynell, I find that she died on the 4th November 1484. Her will was proved at Norwich on the 18th December following.

To my ryght worschipful husbond, John Paston.

RYGHT worschipful husbond, I recomaund me onto you. Plese it you to wete that I sent your eldest sunne to my Lady Morlee[1] to have knolage wat sports wer husyd in her hows in Kyrstemesse next folloyng aftyr the decysse of my lord, her husbond; and sche seyd that ther wer non dysgysyngs, ner harpyng, ner lutyng, ner syngyn, ner non lowde dysports, but pleyng at the tabyllys, and schesse, and cards. Sweche dysports sche gave her folkys leve to play and non odyr.

Your sunne dede hese heyrne [*errand*] ryght wele as ye shal her aftyr this. I sent your yonger sunne to the Lady Stabylton,[2] and sche seyd acordyng to my Lady Morlees seyng in that, and as sche hadde seyn husyd in places of worschip[3] ther as sche hathe beyn.

I pray you that ye woil asur to your some man at Caster to kepe your botry, for the mane that ye lefte with me woll not take upon hym to breve[4] dayly as ye commandyt. He seyth he hath not usyd to geve a rekenyng nothyr of bred nor alle [*ale*] tyll at the wekys

[1] Widow of William Lovel, Lord Morley, who died the 26th of July 1476. F.

[2] Sir Miles Stapleton died in 1466. His widow Catherine seems to have married in the following year Sir Richard Harcourt of Ellenhale (Blomefield, ix. 321), but, according to a practice not uncommon at that time, she may have retained the name of Lady Stapleton.

[3] "Places of worship;" *i.e.* families of distinction.

[4] To make up accounts.

end; and he seyth he wot well that he shuld not condenyth [*give satisfaction*] and therfor I soposse he shall not abyd, and I trow ye shall be fayne to purveye another man for Symond, for ye har never the nerer a wysse man for hym.

I ham sory that ye shall not [be] at hom be for Crystemes. I pray you that ye woll come as sone as ye may. I shall thynke myself halfe a wedow, because ye shal not be at home, &c. God have you in Hys kepyng.

Wretyn on Crestemes Evyn. By yor, M. P.

882.

About A.D. 1484?—Abstract.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

Stansted and Harwellbury.

This is a paper of notes relating to the manors of Stansted in Suffolk and Harwellbury in Herts, addressed to a lady who is styled "Madam" and "your Grace," and who, though not named, was undoubtedly the Duchess of Norfolk. Compare No. 846. The writer is perhaps John Paston of Gelston; in which case the date must be after 1484, as he speaks of his mother as being dead. More probably it was his uncle William, and John Paston is the nephew referred to in the paper itself. But even in that case the document cannot be five years earlier, as Agnes Paston died in 1479.

The manor of Stansted is in the county of Suffolk. The estate of this manor passed not by the deed that the estate was taken by at Huntingfeld, in Norf.,[1] but I claim this manor by my mother's gift. "This manor is but a mile from Clopton's and not far from Smalbrigge, where your Grace is now." John Barell is farmer of this manor, who, when I came to your Grace just after my mother's death, confessed before your servants, Piers Rumbold and William Smyth, that he was privy of mine estate in my mother's days, and took the farm of me at that time. "Madam, this is the man ye sent your servant W. Smyth to, for to keep the possession there; and after he had tarried there awhile he took a promise of the farmer that he should pay no money to nobody without commandment from your Grace; contrary to which promise, by the favour of some folks that your Grace can deem, he hath paid my nephew a £10 or £20." I think, Madam, you need send no man to keep possession there; but your Grace might send a servant thither to show the tenants your displeasure, inasmuch as he hath broken his promise with your Grace, and threaten to distrain.

The manor of Harwellbury is in Hertfordshire, four miles from

[1] Should be Suffolk.

your manor of Weston Baldok[1] and two from Roiston. This manor also passed not by the estate taken in Norfolk, not being in the same shire. Of this manor "he"[2] received no money, for the farmers are true and fear not his threats. The manor is worth £8.

883.

A.D. 1485, 23 June.

Proclamation against Henry Tudor.

[From Fenn, ii. 318.]

The MS., as Fenn tells us, was endorsed in an ancient hand, "Kent Cherfys [*Sheriffs*]. —Copia literæ Regis R. III. persuadentis subditos suos ad resistendum Henrico Tydder, postea Regem Angliæ ac declarantis a quo idem Henricus descendebat." Another but an imperfect copy of this proclamation will be found in the Harleian MS., No. 433, f. 220 b. A similar proclamation had been issued on the 7th December 1484, of which a copy will also be found in the same Harleian volume at folio 273 b. Sir Henry Ellis has also printed in his "Original Letters" (2 Ser. i. 162) a copy of this proclamation as set forth in the original warrant for issuing it, which the King addressed to the Bishop of Lincoln as Chancellor. The MS. followed by Ellis was a transcript from one of the records formerly in the Tower. I have compared these different texts throughout with that printed by Fenn, and noted all variations that are of any consequence. The two Harleian texts I have called A. and B., the former being that of the proclamation issued on the 7th December preceding. The text printed by Ellis I have called E.

R. R.

Ricardus, etc. salutem. Precipimus tibi, etc.

HORASMOCHE as the Kyng our sovereign Lord hath certeyn knowlege that Piers, Bisshop of Exeter,[3] Jasper Tydder,[4] son of Owen Tydder, callyng hymself Erle of Pembroke, John, late Erle of Oxon,[5] and Sir Edward Wodevyle,[6] with other dyvers his rebelles and traytours, disabled and atteynted by the auctorite of the High Court of Parlement, of whom many be knowen for open murdrers, advoutrers [*adulterers*], and extorcioners, contrary

[1] The Dukes of Norfolk of the family of Mowbray owned this manor.

[2] The writer's nephew?

[3] Peter Courtney, Bishop of Exeter, after the miscarriage of the Duke of Buckingham's conspiracy, fled into Bretagne to the Earl of Richmond, who, after he became Henry VII., promoted this Prelate to the See of Winchester in 1486, in which he died in 1492.—F.

[4] Jasper Tudor of Hatfield, half brother to Henry VI. He was created Duke of Bedford in 1485.

[5] John de Vere, Earl of Oxford, who had escaped from the Castle of Hammes.—F.

[6] Sir Edward Wodevile, brother to the Queen of Edward IV.—F. The names given in text A. are "Piers, Bisshop of Excestre, Thomas Grey, late Marques Dorset, Jasper, late Erle of Pembroche, John, late Erle of Oxenford, and Sir Edward Widevile."

to the pleasure of God, and a yenst all trouth, honour, and nature, have forsakyn there naturall contrey, takyng them first to be under th'obeisaunce of the Duke of Bretayn,[1] and to hym promysed certeyn thyngs whiche by him and his counsell were thought thynggs to gretly unnaturall and abominable for them to graunt, observe, kepe, and perfourme, and therfore the same utterly refused.

The seid traytours,[2] seyng [3] the seid Duke and his counsell wolde not aide nor socour theym ner folowe there wayes, privily departed oute of his contrey in to Fraunce, and [4] there takyng theym to be under the obeisaunce of the Kynggs auncient enemy, Charlys,[5] callyng hymself Kyng of Fraunce, and to abuse and blynde the comons of this seid Realme, the seid rebelles and traitours have chosyn to be there capteyn one Henry Tydder,[6] son of Edmond Tydder, son of Owen Tydder,[7] whiche of his ambicioness and insociable [8] covetise [9] encrocheth [10] and usurpid [11] upon hym the name and title of royall astate of this Realme of Englond, where unto he hath no maner interest, right, title, or colour, as every man wele knoweth;[12] for he is discended of bastard blood bothe of ffather side and of mother side, for the seid Owen the graunfader was bastard borne, and his moder was doughter unto John, Duke of Somerset, son unto John, Erle of Somerset, sone unto Dame Kateryne Swynford, and of ther [13] indouble [14] avoutry [*adultery*] gotyn, wherby it evidently

1 Francis II., the last Duke of Bretagne, was overthrown by Charles VIII., King of France, and died in 1488.—F.

2 "The said traytours."] They. A.

3 that. A. B. E.

4 "and" omitted in A. B. and E.

5 Charles VIII. ascended the throne in 1483, and died in 1498.—F.

6 Henry Tudor, Earl of Richmond, who in 1483 became King of England, by the title of Henry VII.—F.

7 "one Herry , . . . Owen Tydder"] oon Herry late calling himself Erle of Richemond. A.

8 "ambicious and insaciable." A. B. E.

9 "stirred and excited by the confederacie of the Kinges said rebelles and traytours," added in A.

10 Here text B. comes to an end.

11 "usurpeth." E.

12 From here to the end of the paragraph is omitted in A.

13 "ther"] her. A.

14 This either means double adultery, that is adultery on both sides; or indubitable, undoubted adultery.—F. I suspect the true reading to be "and of her in double avowtry gotyn." It is a great question whether John, Earl of Somerset, John of Gaunt's eldest son by Catherine Swynford, was not born during the life of her lawful husband as well as during that of John of Gaunt's lawful wife.—See *Excerpta Historica*, 155-6.

apperith that no title can nor may [be] [1] in hym, which fully entendeth to entre this Reame, purposyng a conquest. And if he shulde atcheve his fals entent and purpose, every man is lif, livelod, and goddes shulde be in his hands, liberte, and disposicion, wherby sholde ensue the disheretyng and distruccion of all the noble and worshipfull blode of this Reame for ever, and to the resistence and withstondyng wherof every true and naturall Englishman born must ley to his hands for his owen suerte and wele.

And to th'entent that the seid Henry Tydder myght the rather atcheve his fals intent and purpose by the aide, supporte, and assistence of the Kynggs seid auncient enemy of Fraunce,[2] hath covenaunted and bargayned with hym and all the counsell of Fraunce to geve up and relese inperpetuite all the right, title, and cleyme that the Kyng[es] of Englond have, had, and ought to have, to the Crowne and Reame of Fraunce, to gether with the Duchies of Normandy, Anjoy, and Maygne, Gascoyn and Guyne, castell[es] and townys of Caleys, Guysnes, Hammes, with the marches apperteynyng to the same,[3] and discevir and exclude the armes of Fraunce oute of the armes of Englond for ever.

And in more prove and shewing of his seid purpose of conquest, the seid Henry Tidder hath goven as well to dyvers of the seid Kynggs enemys as to his seid rebelles and traitours, archebisshoprikes, bisshoprikes, and other dignitees spirituels, and also the ducheez, erledomez, baronyes, and other possessions and inheritaunces of knyghts, squyres, gentilmen, and other the Kynggs true subjetts withynne the Reame, and entendith also to chaunge and subverte the lawes of the same, and to enduce and establisse newe lawes and ordenaunces amongez the Kynggs seid subjetts.[4] And

[1] Supplied from E.

[2] The beginning of this sentence in A. is as follows:—"And to th'entent to accheve the same by th'aide, support, and assistence of the Kinges seid auncyent ennemyes and of this his royaume."

[3] From the words "and discevir" to the sentence beginning "And over this," all is omitted in A.

over this, and beside the alienacions of all the premyssez into the possession of the Kynggs seid auncient enemys to the grettest anyntisshment,[1] shame, and rebuke that ever myght falle to this seid land, the seid Henry Tydder and others, the Kynggs rebelles and traitours aforeseid, have extended [*intended*] at there comyng, if they may be of power,[2] to do the most cruell murdrers, slaughterys, and roberys, and disherisons that ever were seen in eny Cristen reame.

For the wich, and other inestymable daungers to be escheuved, and to th'entent that the Kynggs seid rebelles, traitours, and enemys[3] may be utterly put from there seid malicious and fals purpose[4] and sone discomforted,[5] if they enforce to land,[6] the Kyng our soveraign Lord[7] willith, chargeth, and comaundith all and everyche of the naturall and true subgetts of this his Reame to call the premyssez to there mynds, and like gode and true Englishmen to endover themselfs with all there powers for the defence of them, there wifs, chylderyn, and godes, and heriditaments ayenst the seid malicious purposes and conspiracions which the seid auncient enemes[8] have made with the Kynggs seid rebelles and traitours[9] for the fynall distruccion of this lande as is aforesaid. And our said soveraign Lord, as a wele willed, diligent, and coragious Prynce, wel put his moost roiall persone to all labour and payne necessary in this behalve for the resistence and subduyng of his seid enemys, rebells, and traitours[10] to the

1 Aneantisement—anientised is used by Chaucer in his Tale of Melebeus, for reducing to nothing.—F.
2 "if they may be of power," omitted in A.
3 rebelles and traytours. A.
4 malicious purposes. A.
5 discomfited. A. E.
6 Or rather, make good their landing by force.—F.
7 desireth. A, E.
8 the auncyentes ennemyes of this lande. A.
9 "and traitours," omitted in A.
10 rebelles, traitours, and enemyes. A. In which text the proclamation ends with these words, and is followed by the usual words addressed to the Chancellor as his authority for making out the proclamation: "And thise oure lettres shall be your sufficient warrant in that behalve." This warrant to the Chancellor is dated "at oure Castell of Notyngham, the xxj. day of Juyn, the secund yere of our reigne," two days before the proclamation was issued.

moost comforte, wele, and suerte of all[1] his true and feithfull liege men and subgetts.

And over this, our seid soveraign Lord willith and comaundith all his seid subgetts to be redy in there most defensible arraye to do his Highnes servyce of werre, when thy be opyn proclamacion, or otherwise shall be comaunded so to do, for the resistence of the Kynggs seid rebelles, traitours, and enemyes. Et hoc sub periculo, &c.—T. me ipso apud Westmonasterium, xxiij. die Junij, Anno regni nostri secundo.

884.

A.D. 1485, Aug.

The Duke of Norfolk to John Paston.

[From Fenn, ii. 334.]

This letter must have been written in August 1485, some days after the landing of the Earl of Richmond, afterwards Henry VII., at Milford Haven.

To my welbelovyd frend, John Paston, be thys byll delyveryd in hast.

WELBELOVYD frend, I cummaunde me to yow, letyng yow to undyrstond that the Kyngs enmysse be a land, and that the Kyng wold hafe set for the asuppon Monday but only for Howre Lady Day;[2] but for serten he gothe forward as uppon Tewsday, for a servant of myne browt to me the sertente.

Wherfor, I pray yow that ye met with me at Bery,[3] for, be the grace of God, I purposse to lye at Bery as uppon Tewsday nyght, and that ye brynge with yow seche company of tall men as ye may goodly make at my cost and charge, be seyd that ye have promysyd the Kyng; and I pray yow ordeyne them jakets of my levery, and I shall contente yow at your metyng with me. Yower lover,

J. Norffolk.

[1] and singlier. A. [2] The Assumption of Our Lady, 15th of August
[3] Bury St. Edmund's in Suffolk.

The Paston Letters.

Henry VII.

885.

A.D. 1485, 23 Sept.

Dame Elizabeth Browne to John Paston.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

The MS. from which this letter is printed is not in the handwriting of Dame Eliz. Browne. It is a corrected draft in the handwriting of John Paston, with the address at the head.

To my ryght worchepfull and hertly beloved nevew, John Paston, Sqwyer.

RIGHT worchepfull, and my ryght hertly beloved nevew, I recomand me to yow. And wher as ye desier me to send yow woord whether my brodyr John Paston, your fadyr, was with my fadyr and hys, whom God assoyle, duryng hys last syknesse and at the tyme of hys dissease at Seynt Brydis, or nowght.

Nevew, I assarteyn yow upon my feythe and poore honore that I was xiiij., xv. yer or xvj. yer old, and[1] at Seynt Brydis with my fadyr and my modyr when my fadyrs last syknesse took hym, and tyll he was disseassid; and I dare depose befor ony persone honorable that when my fadyrs last siknesse tooke hym, my brodyr your fadyr was in Norffolk, and he came not to London tyll aftyr that my fadyr was disseassid, and that can Sir William Cootyng[2] and Jamys Gressham

[1] The words "xiiij. —— old, and" are an interlineation, J. P. apparently did not know his sister's exact age at the time and wished her to supply it.

[2] Rector of Swainsthorpe from 1444 to 1450, and of Titchwell from 1450 to 1457.. He was presented to the former living by Judge Paston and John Dam.

record, for they bothe were my fadyrs clerkys at that tyme. And I remembre and wot well that Jamys Gressham was with my fadyr at Seynt Brydys duryng all hys siknesse and at hys disseasse, and thys wyll I wyttnesse whyle I leve for a trowthe, as knowith God, Whom I beseche to preserve you and yours.

And, nevew, I prey yow recomand to my neese your wyff, whom I wold be glad to se onys a yen in London, wher thys bylle was wretyn, signed with myn hand, and sealed with my seale [the Thursday next befor Whyghtsonday, the second yer of Kyng Richard the Thred],[1] the xxiij. daye of September the first yer of the reyngne of Kyng Herry the vijth.

Your loveing awnte, El[iza]beth Browne.

886.

A.D. 1485, 3 Oct.

Elizabeth, Countess of Surrey, to John Paston.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

This letter must have been written either in 1485 or in 1486. Thomas Howard, Earl of Surrey, was taken prisoner at the battle of Bosworth on the 22d August 1485, and was not released from confinement till 1487, in which latter year also John Paston, to whom this letter is addressed, was knighted at the battle of Stoke on the 16th June. Most likely the letter is of the year 1485, at the beginning of the Earl's imprisonment, and when Henry VII. had been just six weeks upon the throne.

To myn ryght worshepfull cosyn, John Paston, Esquyer.

MYN ryght worshipfull cosyn, I recomawnde me hertly to you, thankyng you of your greet kyndnes and lovyng disposicion towardys myn lord and me at all tymes, which I pray God I may leve to see the acquytell ther of to your plesure, prayeng you of your good continuauns.

Cosyn, I shewyd you myn mynde that I wolde have myn shildern to Thorpe,[2] wher in, God yelde you, it pleasyd you to sey that I shulde have hors of you to help to conveye them thyder; but now I undirstonde

[1] This date is scratched through with the pen. [2] In Norfolk.—F.

myn Lord Fitz Walter[1] hath dischargyd myn lordys servauntes thens, affermyng up on them that they shulde have had unfittyng langage of the Kynges Grace. Cosyn, I trust that ye and all the jentilmen of the shire, which have had knowleche of myn lordes servauntes, kan sey that her to for they have not ben of that disposicion to be lavas of theyr tungys, whan they had moore cause of booldnes than they have nowe. I wolde not have thowght myn Lord Fitzwalter wolde have takyn so ferforth displeasure for the keepyng of x. or xij. men at Thorpe; I woot weell ther exceded not iij. mees[2] meet, good and bad. I truste, all thow I weer a soel woman, to mayntene so many at the leeste, what so evyr I dyde moore.

I trustyd to have fowndyn myn Lord Fitzwalter better lord to me, seyng whan I was wyth myn Lord of Oxenforth, up on myn desyre and request at that tyme made un to hym, he promysed me to be good lord to myn lord and me, wher of I praye you to put hym in remembrauns, trustyng yit be the meene of you to fynde hym better lord to me her aftyr.

I have fownde myn Lord of Oxenforth singuler very good and kynde lord to myn lord and me, and stedefaste in hys promys, wher by he hath wonne myn lordys service as longe as he leevyth, and me to be hys trewe beedwoman terme of myn lyve; for hym I drede mooste, and yit as hyther to I fynde hym beste. I pray you good cosyn, the rather by your meane, that I may have the continuauns of hys good lordship, and to myn poore power I truste to deserve it. I pray you, cosyn, that thys byll may recomawnde [me][3] to myn Lady Brews and to myn cosyn, your wyf.

From Mynster, in the Yle of Shepey, the iij^{de} day of Octobre. I pray you yeve credens to the berer of thys, and to Thomas Jenney, whan he comyth to you.

[4] Your faythefoull cosyene, E. SURREY.

[1] John Ratcliff, Lord Fitzwalter, who was summoned to Parliament in September 1485.

[2] A mess was a party of four at dinner.

[3] Omitted in MS.

[4] These last words were written by the Countess, the letter by her secretary.—F.

887.

A.D. 1485, 20 Oct.
The Duke of Suffolk to John Paston.

[From Fenn, ii. 326.]

John Paston was Sheriff of Norfolk in the first year of Henry VII., and entered on his duties at Michaelmas 1485. This letter therefore is of that year.

To our trusty and welbeloved John Paston, Sheriff of Suffolk and Norffolk.

The Duc of Suffolk.

RIGHT welbeloved, we grete you well. And for asmuche as the King our sovereigne Lord hath late addressed his letters of comission undre his seale unto us, reciting by the same that his highnesse undrestondith certayn his rebells associate to his old enmys of Scotlond, entending not only to trowble his peax, the nobles and subjects of this Realme to destroy, their goods and possessions to spoill, and reward at thair liberties, but also the lawes of this lond and holy Chirche to subvert.

Our said moost drad soverayn Lord, as a Cristen Prince, ... his said enmys and rebels to resist, hath assigned and comaunded us to do all maner . . . . and others defensible able to labour, as well archers as hobbyllers,[1] to come before us and charge them . . . . . armed and arayed, every man aftre his degre and power, to attend uppon his person, and uppon us, to do him service in defence as well of the Chirche as of the said nobles and subjects of this Realm, against his said enmys and rebels.

We therfore wull, and in our said sovereigne Lords name straitly charge and comaunde you, that in all possible hast ye do this to be proclamed:—And that all maner men able to do the King service, as well

[1] Light horsemen.

knights, esquiers, and gentlemen, as townships and hundreds, as well within franchesse and libertes as without, within the counties of Suffolk and Norffolk, and that they be charged to be redy at all tymes uppon an howre warnyng, and ordered according to the last comission afore this, to attend uppon his Grace and uppon us to do him service, whatsoever they shalbe comaunded, not failing herof, as ye wull answer at your perile. Goven at Long Stratton, the xx. day of October.

And forthermore, that ye yeve credence unto our servaunt this bringer, as this same day we receyved the Kings commission at iiij. aftre none.

SUFFOLK, yor frende.

888.

A.D. 1486, 21 Jan.
MARGERY PASTON TO JOHN PASTON.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

To my mastyr, John Paston, be this delyvird.

RYGHT reverent and wortshepfull syre, in my most umbill weysse I recomaunde me to you, desyryng to here of your welfare, the wytche I beseche God to preserve to His plesur and so your hartes desyir. Syr, I thank you for the venyson that ye sent me; and youre schepe is seylyd owt of the havene as this daye.

Syr, I send you be my brodyr Wyllem your stomachere of damaske. As for youre teppet of velvet, it is not here; An seythe that ye put yt in your casket at London.

Syr, your chyldryn be in goode helle, bellsside be God.

Syr, I prey you sende me the gowild, that I spak to you of be the nexst man that comythe to Norwytche.

Syr, your mast that laye at Yermowyth is letyn to a

scheppe of Hull for xiij*s.* iiij*d.*, and if there fawyll ony hurt ther to, ye schall have a newe mast ther for.

No mor to you at this time, but Almyty God have you in His kepyng. Wretyn at Castyr Hawill, the xxj. daye of Janever, in the furst yere of Kyng Harry the vijth.

Be your servaunt, MARGERY PASTON.

I prey God no ladyis no more ovyr com you, that ye geve no lenggar respyt in your materys.

889.

A.D. 1486, 24 Feb.

ALICE, LADY FITZHUGH, TO JOHN PASTON.

[From Fenn, ii. 336.]

There is a difficulty in dating this letter only from the address being to Sir John Paston. It has every appearance of having been written in the year 1486, when Francis, Viscount Lovel, lay concealed shortly before his outbreak with Humphrey and Thomas Stafford. But in that case the prefix "Sir" before John Paston's name must not be taken as indicating that he was then a knight; for he was not knighted till the battle of Stoke in June 1487.

The writer of this letter was the widow of Henry, Lord Fitzhugh, who died on the 12th June 1472. She was the daughter of Richard Nevill, Earl of Salisbury, and sister of Warwick the Kingmaker.

To my right trusty and welbeloved son,[1] *Sir John Paston, be this delyvered.*

JON PASTON, I recommaunde me to you in my moste hertely maner. And wher I understande be my doghter Lovell, ye desyre to know whedir I woll have the bargane ye made for me in Norwich or nay, and if I wol, I moste content therfor now in mercs; Son, in good faith it is so, I shal receyve no money of the revenowse of my lyvelod afore Mydsommer; and also I have payd accordyng to my promise to Sir William Cabell a great payment, the which ye knowe wel was due to be payde,

[1] I find no evidence of any real relationship between Paston and Lady Fitzhugh.

so that I can not be of power to content therfore, for the which I am right sory, for I know well I shall never have such a bargane.

Also my doghtyr Lovell[1] makith great sute and labour for my sone hir husbande. Sir Edwarde Franke hath bene in the North to inquire for hym; he is comyn agayne, and cane nogth understonde wher he is. Wherfore her benevolers willith hir to continue hir sute and labour; and so I can not departe nor leve hir as ye know well; and if I might be there, I wold be full glad, as knowith our Lorde God, Whoo have you in His blissid kepynge.

From London, the xxiiijth day of February.

Your loving moder,

ALISE, LADY FITZHUGH.

890.

A.D. 1486, 19 May.

MARGARET, COUNTESS OF OXFORD, TO JOHN PASTON.

[From Fenn, ii. 338.]

The date of this is quite certain from the subject to which it refers, as well as from the fact of John Paston being at the time Sheriff of Norfolk and Suffolk. Francis, Viscount Lovel, was one of the principal adherents of Richard III., and was attainted after the accession of Henry VII. in 1485. For some time he lay concealed, but in the spring of 1486 he attempted to raise an insurrection along with Humphrey and Thomas Stafford, who had broken out of their sanctuary at Colchester. He is said to have been drowned in the Trent in 1487, in endeavouring to escape after the battle of Stoke. But according to another story he lived in concealment for some time after.

To my right trusti and welbiloved John Paston, Shrieve of Norffolk and Suffolk.

RIGHT trusti and welbiloved, I recomaund me unto you. And for as moche as I am credebly enfourmed that Fraunceis, late Lorde Lovell, is now of late resorted into the Yle of Ely, to the entente by alle lykelyhod, to finde the waies and meanes to gete him shipping and passage in

[1] Francis, Viscount Lovel, married Anne, daughter of Alice, Lady Fitzhugh.

your costes, or ellis to resorte ageyn to seintuary, if he can or maie;

I therfor hertily desire praie you, and neverthelesse, in the Kinges name, streitly chargie you that ye in all goodly haste endevore your self that suche wetche or other meanes be used and hadde in the poorts, and creks, and othre places wher ye thinke necessary by your discrecion, to the letting of his seid purpose; and that ye also use all the waies ye can or maie by your wisdom, to the taking of the same late Lorde Lovell. And what pleasur ye maie do to the Kings Grace in this matier, I am sure, is not to you unknowen. And God kepe you.

Wretyn at Lavenham, the xix. day of May.

MARGARET OXYNFORD.[1]

891.

A.D. 1486, 12 Aug.—HENRY VII. TO JOHN PASTON

[From Sandford's Genealogy of the Paston Family.]

This letter is derived from Mr. Worship's article in the *Norfolk Archæology* on a MS. Genealogy of the Paston family. The date must be 1486, during John Paston's shrievalty. The transcript is of the seventeenth century.

To our trusty and welbeloved John Paston, one of our Esquiers for our Body, Shreife of our countys of Norffolk and Suffolk.

BY THE KING.

TRUSTY and welbeloved, we greet you well. And whereas we send at this time our trusty and welbeloved clerke and counseilor, Mr. Edmunde Chaderton, to do and execute certein things by our commandement in those parties, like as he can shew to you more at large; We desire and pray you that ye not only yeve unto him therein credence, but also, for the effectuall and speedy per-

[1] Margaret, daughter of Richard Neville, Earl of Salisbury, and sister of Richard, the great Earl of Warwick, was the first wife of John de Vere, Earl of Oxford.—F.

formance of the same, ye will be unto him from time to time in everythinge, as the case shall require, adviseinge, aidinge, and assistinge, as we singularly trust you, and as ye desire to do us pleasure.

Yeven under our Signet at our mannor of Shene, the xijth day of August.

892.

A.D. 1487, 24 Jan.
The Earl of Oxford to John Paston.

[From Douce MS. 393, f. 78.]

Francis, Viscount Lovel, after trying to raise a rebellion in England in 1486, escaped abroad to Flanders, and joined the Earl of Lincoln in the following Spring in an invasion of England in behalf of Lambert Simnel. This letter appears therefore to have been written in the beginning of the year 1487.

To my right trusty and right welbelovyd Councellor, John Paston, Esquier.

JOHN PASTON, I comaund me to you. And as for such tithynge as ye have sent hider, the Kyng had knowlech therof more than a sevynnyght passed. And as for such names as ye have sent, supposyng theym to be gone with the Lord Lovell, they be yitt in England, for he is departyng with xiiij. personys and no moe. At the Kynges comyng to London I wold advise you to see his Highnes. And Almyghty God kepe you.

Writen at Wyndesore, the xxiiijth day of January.

Oxynford.

Endorsed: The Countis of Oxfordes lettre.

893.

A.D. 1487.—John, Prior of Norwich, to ——.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

The writer of this letter was John Bonwell, who was made Prior of Norwich in 1480, and died in 1488. As the letter is actually dated in the second year

of Henry VII., it must have been written either after the 22d August in 1486 or before that date in 1487. Most probably it is of the latter year. It is endorsed in a contemporaneous hand—"Billa Prioris Norwic' pro missa perpetue fundanda." One or two words are now lost by the decay of the paper, which seem to have been visible in the text when Fenn copied the MS. for his fifth volume.

RIGHT worchupfull serys, we recomaunde us all unto you in oure most herty wyse. And it is so that longe and many yerys ther hath ben hangyng a grete variaunce and a growge bitwix Annes Paston deceassed, late the wyff of William Paston, Justice, and William Paston now lyvyng, and Clement Paston deceassid, ther sones, one the oone parte, and John Paston, the sone of the seide William Paston, Justice, and of the seide Annes his wiff, also deceassid, and Ser John Paston, Knyght, deceassed, and John Paston yet lyvyng, sones to the seide John deceassid, on the othir parte. And now the seide variaunce contynueth betwixe the seide William and John that now is lyvyng of and upon the right, title, and possessioun of the maners of Sporle, Woodhall, Pagrave, Cressyngham, Swaynesthorpe, and Est Bekham, all [in] this cuntre of Norffolk.

Likith it you to wete that the seide William Paston, Justice, in his lyve was a speciall lover and frende to our monastery, and for synguler love and trust that he hadde to be remembred amonge us after hys deceasse, not with stondyng h[e de]yed at London, yet he bequest his body to be beryed, and is beryed in the chapell of Our Lady with inne oure monastery. [And] the seide William Paston, Justice, oftyn and many tymes in his pleyn lyfe, the seide Annes beyng present, he shewed unto the Priour of our monastery that was than, called Dawn John Heverlonde,[1] and to Dawn John Molett,[2] that was Priour after, to Dawn John Fornsett, Doctour of Devynyte, Dawn Richerd Walsham, our sexten, and to Dawn John Wechyngham, and to many dyverse other that were of his acqueyntaunce, and that he had trust

[1] John Haverland was Prior of Norwich from 1436 to 1453.
[2] Prior from 1453 to 1471.

unto to breke his mynde for the wele of his soule, that were thanne olde fadirs of our monastery, and arn now decessed, that it was his verry last will that ought of the seide maners schuld be perpetually immortaysed a serteyn londe, or annuyte of suche valewe, that every suche monke that syngith the last messe in the seide chapell, wher the body of the seide William Paston light beryed, schuld have that day that he songe messe ther iiij*d.* to pray for the soules of the seide William, and of Annes his wif, and for ther auncetrys, kynred, consanguynyte, affynyte, and frendes, and for all Cristen soules; and over that, a serteyn summe of money yerly to be payed to have the obytt of the seide William and Annes zerly kept with *dirige* and masse in the seide chapell.

And it is so that many yeres aftir the decesse of the the seide William, Justice, ther were many men lyvyng bothe of olde brethern of oures afore rehersyd, and of other that cowde aborne witnesse in this mater, and that knewe the mynde of the seide William Paston, Justice, that it was his last will, of whiche men many now be deceassed; and no merveill, for it is upon a xliij. yere past sithen the seide William, Justice, deyed. And also the seide Annes that was hys wif lyved more thanne xxx. wynter aftir hir husbonde, and was in singuler trust with her husbonde, and one of his executours, and wele knowen in this cuntre, a woman of vertuos lyvyng and disposicion, and of goode discrecioun and conscience, and knewe hir husbondes mynde and last will as wele as ony lyvyng creature; she witnessed alway that it was hire husbondes last will to have this perpetuall messe, and called on it all the dayes of hir lyfe, and also atte her decesse; and sche seide that [it] was the will of her husbonde that the annuyte schulde go oute of the seide maner of Swaynesthorpe. The seide John Paston decessed wolde have hadde it graunted owte of the seide maner of Cressyngham; and summe of the executours wolde have hadde the seide messe to a contynued but for the terme of iiij$^{xx.}$ yere,

and wolde have made writyng accordyng; but the seide Annes wolde not ther of, but seide alway that it was the last will of hir husbonde to have the messe made perpetuall, and the executours schewid to us that they wolde se the wyll perfourmed; and ther upon the executours, be ther comon assent, lefte a cofre with a grete substaunce of money of the goodes of the seide William, Justice, to be kepte with inne our monastery, and tolde and schewed to us that the seide gode schuld never be departid nor hadde oute of our place till we wer made sure of the seide annuyte. And duryng all that season that the seide cofer with the goodes was with ynne our monastery, it was alway schewid to us that the seide annuyte schulde be mortaysed in perpetuyte, and duryng all that season that the seid cofer was in our place, we hadde money yerly yoven us to pray for his soule to kepe [his obytt][1]; and be menys devysed with oute the knowleche of the seide Annes, or of ony of our brethern, all the goode that was in the seide cofre was conveyed oute of our monastery, and after that dede done, ther was no more money yoven us, nowther to kepe the seide obit, ner to pray for the soull of the seide William, as be the seide executours, savyng that the seide Annes, duryng her lyve, yaff us of hir owne cost yerly to remembre the soule, and that that hath be done sythen, hath be don of our owne devocion, and this many zerys ther hath no thing be yoven us, notwithstondyng of our own devocion we have rehersid his name in oure bede rolle every Sonday.

And now it is informed us that as wele the seide William as the seide John hath putt all ther title and interest, as wele in and of all the seide maners, londes, and tenementys as of the seide goodes in the awarde and jugement of the Right Reverend Fader in God, my Lord of Ely,[2] Chaunceler of Inglond, Ser Reynold Bray, Knyght, and in you tweyne. And in asmoche as ze be of our cuntre and speciall frendes to our

[1] The writing is here blurred and indistinct, being written on an erasure.
[2] John Alcock.

monastery, and longest acqueyntyd with you, that makith me and all my brethren the more bolde to schewe this our mater and interest unto you, beseching yow bothe to tendre the mater, and to schewe it bothe to my Lorde of Ely and to Ser Reynolde Bray, that atte suche tyme as ze have the examynacion of the title of theise seide maners, that ze will vouche saff of your charite to schewe this mater and our interest in this behalf, and of the seide annuyte, and how that we aught of right to have a graunt of it oute of the seide maners.

And in this mater we hertily pray yow to take remembraunce and speciall labour, so that we may trust that it schall not askape your handes, nowe that the mater is putte in yowe; and all our monastery schall pray for you, and also rewarde you to your plesur, and over that, ze schall do her in suche a goode dede that God schall rewarde you.

Wretyn in our monastery, the ——[1] day of ——,[1] the secunde yer of the regne of Kyng Herry the vijth.

By JOHN, Prior off Northwich
and the Covent.

894.

A.D. 1487, 16 May.
SIR EDMUND BEDINGFIELD TO JOHN PASTON.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

This letter and that which follows were written during the period of Lambert Simnel's rebellion. The rebels were at this time in Ireland, but they soon after invaded England, and were defeated at the battle of Stoke on the 16th June 1487. Francis, Viscount Lovel, took part in the movement, and is supposed to have perished in the battle, or shortly after it.

Un to my ryght wurshypfull cosyn, John Paston, Esquyer, for the Body.

[1] Blanks in MS.

RYGHT wurshypfull cosyn, I recomawnd me un to you as hertly as I can, letyng you wytte I was with my Lorde Stuarde[1] as on Munday laste paste, by the desyir of them that I myght not sey ney to. I herde all that was seyd there, but they gaate non avawntage, wurde, nor promyse off me; but they thought in asmoche as they ware the beste in the shere, that every man owghte to wayte and go with them. Wherto yt was answerd that oure master,[2] nexte the Kynge, havynge hys commysshon, muste nedys have the jentylmen and the contre to a wayte up onhym by the vertu of the same; but yt was thought I owght not to obeye no copy of the commisshon, withoute I had the same under wexe, where in hathe ben gret argument, whyche I understoode by reporte a fortnyte paste, and that causyd me to sende unto my lorde to have the very commysshon, whyche he sente me, and a letter, where off I sende you the copy here in closyd.

As for you, ye be sore takyn in sum place, seying that ye intende swyche thynges as ys lyke to folow gret myscheffe. I seyd I undyrstood non swyche, nor thynges lyke it; and yt ys thoughte ye intende nat to go forthe thys jorneye, nor no jentylman in that quarter but Robert Brandon that hath promysyd to go with them, as they seye.

I understonde Sir Wylliam Bolen[3] and Sir Harry Heydon[4] ware at Thetforde in to Kente ward, but they returnyd in to Norffolk a geyne; I thynke they wull not goo thys jorney, yff the Kynge nede. Ser Harry was at Attylborow on Saterday. I wene he had a vyce there to turne a zen; wher for, cosyn, yt ys good to understonde the sertente what jentylmen intende to goo, and be assuryd to go together, that I may have wurde; my cosyn Hoptun hathe promysyd

[1] John Ratcliff, Lord Fitzwalter.—*See* Campbell's Materials for a History of Henry VII., i. 92, 241.

[2] Probably the Earl of Oxford.—*See* next letter.

[3] Sir William Boleyn, of Blickling, had been made a Knight of the Bath at the Coronation of Richard III. He died in 1505.—F.

[4] Sir Henry Heydon, of Baconsthorp, Knight, had been steward of the household to Cecilia, Duchess of York, and died in 1503.—F.

that he wull be oon. As fore Wysman, he seythe he wull be off the same, but I can have no holde.

Furthermore, cosyn, yt ys seyd that after my lordys departyng to the Kynge ye ware mette at Barkwey, whyche ys construid that ye had ben with the Lady Lovell, but wrathe seyd never well; and in asmoche as we understonde my lordys plesur, yt ys well doon we dele wysly therafter. And, nexte to the Kynge, I answerd pleynly I was bownde to do him service, and to fullfylle hys comaundment to the uttermest off my powere, by the grace off God, Who ever preserve you to Hys plesur.

Wretyn at Oxburgh, the xvj. day of Maye.

Your cosyn, E. BEDYNGFELD.[1]

895.

A.D. 1487, May?

[THE EARL OF OXFORD?] TO SIR EDMUND BEDINGFIELD.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

The MS. from which this letter was printed was evidently the copy of a letter, which was enclosed in the preceding. Fenn supposes with great probability that the writer was the Earl of Oxford, but the MS. being only a copy, there is no signature attached. Commissions of array were issued on the 7th April 1487 for the counties of Suffolk, Norfolk, and Essex, with special instructions for repairing and guarding the beacons for fear of an invasion. The Commissioners for the county of Norfolk were John, Duke of Suffolk, John, Earl of Oxford, John Radcliff, Lord Fitzwalter, and fifteen others, among whom was John Paston.—*See* Patent Roll, 2 Hen. VII., p. 2, m. 6, *in dorso*.

WHERE AS I understonde by your late wrytyng un to me, that ye have ryght well endevyrd you to th'execusion of the Kynges comission and comawndment, in preparyng your selffe with the jentylmen and other of the contre, to be redy to do the Kyng servyce, whyche I have shewid un to the Kynges Hyghnes, so that hys Grace ys ryght well content and ryght thankfully acceptyth the same,

1 Sir Edmund Bedingfeld was made a Knight of the Bath at the Coronation of Richard III. He was likewise in high favour with Henry VII., who paid him a royal visit at Oxburgh, in Norfolk. He died in 1496.—F.

understondynge the ryght good myndys and dysposyschon off you and off other jentylmen there towardes hys Grace. How be yt, hys Hyghnes wull not as zytte put you to ony further labur or charge, for somoche as hys rebellys and enemyes be in to Irlande; nevertheless hys Grace wull that the contre be redy at all tymis to do hys Hyghnes servyce up on resonabull warnyng; for so moche as the Kynges Grace intendythe to make provysyon to sende an armi in to Irlonde in haaste, nat knowyng as zytte whether that ye, and other aboute you shall be desyird to bere ony charge there to or no. And where as yt ys mervellyd that ye had not the Kynges comysshon, under hys gret seall, I send yt to you with thys my wrytyng, wyllynge you nat to procede further to eny execushon theroff tyll swyche tyme as ye have other wise in comawndment, alwey thankyng hertyly the jentylmen, and all other for ther good wyllys towardes me.

896.

A.D. 1487 or later.

Dame Elizabeth Brews to Sir John Paston.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

Fenn dates this letter "about 1487." It cannot be earlier than June of that year, and may be a few years later. But the date is unimportant. This letter appears to be a holograph. The next is written by a scribe.

To my rytth worchupfull son, Sir Jon Paston, be thys byll delyvyrd in hast.

RYTH worchupfull son, I recommend me on to zow and to my lady zowyr wyf, and thankyng zow harttyly for the grett labyr thatt ze had on Thorys day for me, and for zowyr kyndnes; for and odyr had don asse ze ded, I had had my purpos; qwerfor I prey God do be them asse they do be me.

Son, I must prey zow to have a dosseyn men in harnes, with bowys and wepyn convenyent for them, that I may feche my stres ageyn. The schrevys man wasse here wythe me, and [j. of] yowyres, he seyth he ys, and he hatth mad me feythful promes that he wol be wyth me ageyn on Monday, qwerfor I prey zow harttyly, son, and reqwere zow that zowyr men may be wyth me on Monday, as my werry tros ys in zow, qwo sknowyth blyssyd Jesu, Hom haff zow and zowyr in Yss keppyng.

Be zowyr trew modyr,

DAM ELYSABETHE BREWYSSE.

897.

About A.D. 1488?

DAME ELIZABETH BREWS TO SIR JOHN PASTON.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

The date of this letter is nearly as indefinite as that of the last, but it certainly lies between the year 1487, when Sir John Paston was knighted, and 1489, when William Brews died. If the latter part of the letter refers to the levying of a subsidy, in which the Bishop of Chester may have been one of the King's agents, the date is probably about the end of the year 1488. Sir Thomas Brews, the writer's husband, died in 1482.

To my right worshipfull son, Sir John Paston, Knyght, be this delyverd.

RIGHT worshipfull son, I recommaund me unto you and to my lady my doughter your wyfe, and I send you both Cristes blyssyng and myne. And, son, I thank you hertely for my son, William Brews; and I moste pray you for the reverens of Jesu to help hym for your tenauntes and myne, or els John Dynne will owver rewle them. And, son, God thank you, ye helpyd ons Whyte of Metfeld, and so I must beseche you nowe to do, and that it wold pleas you to gyffe credans unto the Priour of the Wyhte Freres, for I have shewed unto hym my mynd; and as ye do, I hold me content.

And, son, we ladys and jentil women in this contrey that is wedows, be sore trobyld with the Bysshop of Chester,[1] and haskith of us more than we may pay, and that knowith All myghty Jesu, Who have you in His blyssed kepyng.

Be your moder,

DAME ELIZABETH BREWS.

898.

A.D. 1486-95.

SIR JOHN PASTON TO DAME MARGERY PASTON.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

James Hobart was the King's Attorney-General from 1486 to 1509, and Dame Margery Paston died in 1495. There is nothing to fix the date of this letter more precisely.

To Dame Margery Paston, at Oxenhed.

MASTRESS MARGERY, I recomand me to yow. And I prey yow in all hast possybyll to send me, by the next swer messenger that ye can gete, a large playster of your *flose ungwentorum* for Kynges Attorney, Jamys Hobart, for all hys dysease is but an ache in hys knee. He is the man that brought yow and me togedyrs, and I had lever then xl*li.* ye koud with your playster depart hym and hys peyne. But when ye send me the playster, ye must send me wryghtyng hough it shold be leyd to and takyn fro hys knee, and hough longe it shold abyd on hys kne unremevyd, and hough longe the playster wyll laste good, and whethyr he must lape eny more clothys aboute the playster to kepe it warme or nought. And God be with yow.

Your, JOHN PASTON.

[1] The Bishops of Coventry and Lichfield were often called Bishops of Chester before the foundation of the modern Bishopric of Chester by Henry VIII. John Hales or Halse was Bishop of Coventry from 1459 to 1490.

899.

A.D. 1487-1502.

The Queen to the Earl of Oxford.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

This letter and that which follows, relating to the manor of Cotton, are both quite uncertain in point of date, except that they cannot be earlier than 1487, when Sir John Paston was knighted, nor later than 1502, as the Queen and Sir John Paston himself both died in the year following.

To oure right trusty and enterly beloved cosyn, Th'Erll of Oxon.

By the Quene.

RYGHT trusty and entierly beloved cosyn, we grete you well, lattyng you wete hou it is commen un to oure knowlege that where as ze newly entred upon oure welbeloved Symon Blyant, gentilman, in to the maner of Hemnals in Cotton, descended and belongyng unto hym by right of enheritaunce, as it is seid, ze ther upon desired the same Symon to be agreable for hys part to put all maters of variance thenne dependyng atwene hym and oon Sir John Paston, Knyght, pretendyng a title unto the seid maner into th'award and jugement of two lenerd men, by you named and chosen as arbritrours atwene them; and in case that the same arbritrours of and upon the premisses neither yave oute nor made suche awarde be for the brekyng up of Pasche [*Easter*] terme nowe last passed, ze of your owne offre graunted and promysid unto the seid Symon, as we be enformed, to restore hym forwyth there upon unto hys possession of the seid maner. And how it be that the same Symon, at youre mocion and for the pleasir of youre lordshyp, as he seith, aggreed un to the seid compromyse, and ther upon brought and shewed hys evydence concernyng, and sufficiently provyng hys ryght in the seid maner un to the seid arbritrours, and that they have not made nor yolden out betwene the said parties any suche award; yet have not ze restored the same Symon unto hys possession of the seid maner, but contynuelly

kepe hym owt of the same, wich, yf it so be, is not only to hys right grete hurt and hinderaunce, but also oure mervaile. Wherfore we desire and pray you ryght affectueusly that ze woll the rather at the contemplacion of thees oure lettres, shew unto the said Symon, in hys rightfull interesse and title in the seid maner all the favorable lordshyp that ze goodely may, doyng hym to be restored and put in to hys lawfull and peasible possession of the same, as fer as reason, equite, and good conscience shall require, and youre seid promise, in suche wyse that he may undyrstond hym selfe herynne to fare the better for oure sake, as oure verray trust is in you.

Yeven under oure signet at my Lordes Palois of Westmynstre, the xxv. day of Juyn. [ELEZEBETH.][1]

Subskrybyd with the Quenys hand.

900.

A.D. 1487-1502.

THE EARL OF OXFORD TO SIR JOHN PASTON.

[From Douce MS. 393, f. 84.]

See preliminary note to the last letter.

To our hertly welbilovyd John Paston, Knyght.

RIGHT hertly welbilovyd, I grete you wele. And where Sir John Howard, Knyght, Sir Gilberde Debenham, Knyght, gederith grete feloship of men, purposyng on Monday next comyng to take stresses of the Lady Roos; and I deme that they undre the colour of the same entende to set on Coton, and to gete it if they may; I therfor councelle you to sende downe a certeine of your men or elles come your silfe for the save garde of the said Coton. Also that ye yeve credence un to the brynger herof. And Our Lorde kepe you.

Writyn at the lodge in Lavenham the last day of Juylle. OXYNFORD.

[1] This name is written in a different character, intended as a representation of the Queen's signature which it somewhat resembles. The writing, however, is crossed out. It is probably the work of the same pen that wrote the words below, though these are in a smaller hand.

901.

Not before A.D. 1487.—Abstract.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

R[obert] Clere to Sir John Paston, Knight.

Your farmer of Mauteby has not given surety and paid poundage for his cattle, as he pretends. I hope you will not encourage him, when he tells you he owes me no duty, and that he took not my "merch" for twenty years, but only so long as he continued in Heryngby farm. I denied him the replevin, because the ground of my farm is parcel of ancient demesne. Your tenants complain of me without cause. I hope you will not be displeased if I ask them simply for what is due to me. I never said "that ye shuld hang upon many bushes." I have always been glad to say or do my best for you, as any poor gentleman in Norfolk. I pray you bring forth my accuser that I may come to my answer, and know who would make variance between us.

Ormesby, 24 Oct.

[The writer of this letter was Robert Clere of Ormesby, who was knighted in 1494, and was sheriff of Norfolk and Suffolk in 1501. The expression, "your" farmer of Mauteby, shows that it was written after the death of Margaret Paston, and that the Sir John addressed must have been her second son, to whom the manor of Mauteby descended. The date is, therefore, not earlier than 1487 when this Sir John was knighted, and may be many years later.]

902.

A.D. 1488? 7 April.
John, Lord Fitzwalter, to Sir John Paston.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

Sir John Paston had been sheriff in the year 1485-6, but he did not receive his knighthood till June 1487 at the battle of Stoke, so that this letter cannot be earlier than 1488. It is, however, not unlikely to have been written in that year, or one or two years later. The writer, Lord Fitzwalter, was beheaded and attainted in 1495 as an adherent of Perkin Warbeck.

To my right worshipfull cosyn, Syr John Paston, Knight, be thys lettre delyvered.

RIGHT worshipfull cosyn, in my most herty wise I [comme]nd me to you. And where I am enformed that ye have takyn a disthresse

within the [Du]chy of Lankastir for suche money as was commyng toward you of ryght for the tyme that ye were shiryef, me seme, cosyn, ye aught not to take it within the said Duchy of noon auncyen demene holdyn upon the King; for there be places inow to gadir it upon without the said auncyen demene, and so ye cannot lose it. And also, cosyn, I am enformed that it is paied alredy to oon John Burnam, which is of sufficyency inow. For whiche cause mesemythe it werne resone to levey it upon hym than ther where as is noon auctorite to levey it upon. Wherfore, cosyn, I pray you to be good mastir for my sake to thies pore men, whiche be the Kingz tenauntz, and to shew them the favour that ye may. And I shall be as glad to doo you as gret plesure in tyme commyng, by Goddz grace, Who preserve you.

Wretyn at Attylborow, the vij. daie of Apryll.

Zowir cosyn and frend,

[J.] Sir Fytz Wauter.

903.

A.D. 1488-94.

Lord Fitzwalter to Sir John Paston.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

The date of this letter, as of the last, must be between the years 1488 and 1494.

To my right wourschippfull and hertely welbeloved cousyn, Sir John Paston, Knyght, this be delyvered.

RIGHT wourschippfull cousyn, in as hertely wyse as I cane, I recommaund me to you. And forasmoche as ther was appoynted a day that ye and my cousyn Heydon, Sir Robert Brandon, the Kynges Attorney, and other of the worschippfull of this schyr, should have mett here

before this tyme of Estren, it was so longe or the Kynges Attorney was commen in to the contre, and the tyme so shorte, that it hathe bene thowght there myght be non covenable tyme affor this. Wherfor they be agreed that they and ye should mete here on Thursday next commyng. Prayinge you, therfor, that ye wolbe here at that tyme, trustynge to Godes mercy that a right good wey shalbe hadde betyx yow that all grugges and rancores shalbe layd a parte. And therfor, cousyn, I praye yow that ye wol not fayle for to be here, and what I canne do for yow, ye shall fynde it redy with Godes grace, Who have yow in His most blessed and assured kepyng.

Wreten on Good Fryday last passed.

Zowir lofyng cosyn,

J. Sir Fytz Wauter.

904.

A.D. 1488, 13 May.

William Paston to Sir John Paston.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

There can be no doubt this letter was written in the year 1488, after Sir Edward Woodville (called Lord Woodville) had gone over to aid the Duke of Brittany against the French, and at the beginning of the rebellion of the young Prince of Scotland (afterwards James IV.) against his father, James III., who was defeated in battle, and afterwards murdered in June of that year.

To Sir John Paston, be thys ettyr delyvered.

AFTYR all dewe recomendacion, pleasyt yow to undyrstonde that my lorde[1] hathe ben with the Kynge in Wyndesour at Seynt Georgys Feste, and ther at the same feste were bothe the inbacetours of Breten and of Flaundyrs, as well fro the Kynge of Romayns[2] as fro the yonge Duke.[3]

[1] The Earl of Oxford.

[2] Maximilian, Archduke of Austria, was elected King of the Romans in 1486.

[3] Philip, Duke of Burgundy, son of Maximilian.

But I can not schew yow the certeyn whedyr we schall have with them warre or pease; but I undyrstonde for certeyn that all suche capeteyns as wente to the see in Lente, that is to sey, Sir Charlys Somersett, Sir Richard Hawte, and Syr Wylliam Vampage, makythe them redy to goo to the see ageyn as schortely as they can, to what intente I can not sey.

Also, where as it was seyde that my Lord Woddevyle and other schulde have gone over in to Breten, to have eyded the Duke of Breten,[1] I can not tell of non suche eyd. Butt upon that seynge ther came many men to Sowthehamton, where it was seyd that he schulde have takyn schyppyng, to have waytyd upon hym over; and soo whan he was countyrmaundyd, thos that resortyd thedyr, to have gone over with hym taryde there styll in hope that they schuld have ben lycensyd to have gone over; and whan they sey [*saw*] no lykeleod that they schuld have lycens, there was ij.C. of them that gete them in to a Breten schyppe, the whyche was late come over with salte, and bad the mayster sett them a lond in Breten. And they had nott seylyd not paste vj. leges butt they aspied a Frencheman, and the Frencheman mad over to them; and they ferde as thow they wolde not have medylde with them, and all the Englysche men went undyr the hetchys, soo that they schewyd no more but those that came to Sowthehamton with the schype, to cawse the Frenchemen to be the more gladder to medyll with them; and soo the Frencheman burdyd them, and then they that were undyr the hetches came up, and soo toke the Frenchman, and caryed the men, schyppe, and all in to Breaten.

Also, ther was ther an inbacetour fro the Kynge of Schottes,[2] who is now put in grete trobyll be hys son and other of the lordes of hys londe.

Syr, as I came homewerde be London, I spake there with Emonde Dormand, and he seyd that he had

[1] Francis II., Duke of Brittany.
[2] James III.—*See* preliminary note.

wretyn onto yow, but he had none aunswere; wherfor he prayd me that if I knew ony man comynge towerdes Norwhyche, and I wold wrythe on to yow that he ferythe, if ye see none other dyreccion, that he schall be comittyd to the Flete.

Also, he schewyd me that Herry Wyott wholde fynde the mene to have yow condemnyd, and recover the obligacion of xl*li.* ageyns yow, and soo he seythe he whote nott how to doo, for he is halfe dysmayd; he ferythe lesse that he schall never come home. But he intendythe to plede the obligacion fulfylyd at Norwyche, for he seythe ther is non other remedy to save yow fro the condemnacion, tyl that he herythe otherwyse from yow, whyche he thynketh longe aftyr.

Wretyn at Henyngham, the xiij^te^ day of May, with the hand of your brodyr, WYLLIAM PASTON.

905.

About A.D. 1488-90.

THOMAS ANDREW TO WILLIAM PASTON.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

Thomas Andrew, the writer of this letter, was a servant of William Paston, the uncle of Sir John, but the William Paston, to whom this letter is addressed, seems to have been Sir John's brother, whom we find to have been in service with the Earl of Oxford during the years 1488-90.

To the ryght worchipfull mayster, William Paston, Squyer, with my Lord of Oxynford, [be t]his bill delyverd in hast.

RYGHT worchipfull sir, I recomaund me un to you in my best maner, acordyng to my deute. Sir, I sent you a letter by Henre Fox wyff, and I had non answer from you of it. On of the gretest thynges that I wrot to you of, was that the fryer shuld be aposed, howo was prevy with hym, whan he robbed Master Martyn, the prest, at Horn-

yngtoft in Norffolk; also that Fox and the parson of Testerton,[1] shuld be aposed if eny of Hempton Abbay whar out [*were aught*] prevy to the mony makyng.

Sir, now I beseche you to send me a copy of thes mony makers confeschon, and ther namys, for I ame bothe sworne on the quest of the *oyer determiner*, and also on the quest at large, and of that we most make our verdyte at the sessyons after Crystmes for the quest at large; for we toke day over at the last sessyons tyll the sessyons after Crestmes for the quest at large. Lytefot, of your hows, is sworne on the *oyer determiner*.

I beseche you to speke with my lord, to know of his good lordchepe how we shall demene ourselff in that be half; and I beseche you send me word as sone as ye can.

I thynk that Yelvertons servant, that is with you in preson, shall com a gayne hether, and he may bryng your letter to me. He[2] bryngythe you this letter, and if it may be nat a fendyng, I pray you be good master to Yelverton for my sake. I have fownd hym a good persone.

Sir, I shall not be with my lady is grace[3] this Crystmes, far her grace shalbe with the Kynges Grace after Crystmes; and thane I shall awayt on her grace, wher ye shall have my servyce be the grace of Jesu, He preserve you.

At Ryburgh, the xvj. day of December.

And ye hepe [*help*] nat, I am leke to losse moche mony of my costes for thes mony makers. I pray helpe, &c.

Your servant,

THOMAS ANDREW.

[1] Richard Fenwyk was rector of Testerton from 1482 to 1504.

[2] Apparently this "he" means Yelverton himself, his servant being at the time a prisoner in the Earl of Oxford's custody. Fenn erroneously reads "in person" instead of "in preson" in the previous sentence.

[3] Fenn supposes "my lady's grace" to be the Countess of Richmond, the King's mother. I should think, however, it was more probably the Lady Anne Beaufort, wife of William Paston the uncle, the writer being in their service.

906.

A.D. 1489, 2 Feb.—T. Griggs to Sir John Paston.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

This letter is evidently of the same year as that which follows it, to which we refer the reader.

To the Right Honorable Sir John Paston, Knyght, be this delyverid.

RIGHT reverent and honorable, after the ordre of all diew recommendacion had, I recomaunde me un to your maistership. Sir, it is so that John Talyour of Brytcham, debite [*deputy*] in your office of Th'admirallite, was with me this mornyng to have myn advyce in this mater folowyng, the whiche is this.

There was taken ageyns Thornham, in the Kynges streeme, leyng ij. fadam and an halff depe upon the see, a whalle fyssh, by Thornham men labouryng all nyght on Sunday nyght last was, and so have slayn it, and brought to lande; upon the whiche your said debite hath ben ther as yister day, and seysed my lordes part therof; wherof the puple was glad it shuld so be. Than John a Lowe was there, and he seyd to your debite that he wold have the Kynges part in this wise, that the Kyng and my lord shuld part the halff. Sir, the lawe cyvylle seyth thus, "If any fyssh ryall be founde on the se, that is to say, *whalle, bales, sturgion, porpeys, or gra[m]peys*, that my Lord Admyrall shall have the halvendele," &c.

I thynke my lord[1] hath the Kynges prerogatyff upon the see, the whiche I remytte to your discrecion, &c.

Sir, by lyklyhode, without ye take hede and send thedir som of youres, my lordes part shall be litill. It is a greet fissh and a ryall; your debite sheweth me it is xj. fadam and more of length, and ij. fadam of bygnes and depnes in the mydde fyssh.

[1] The Earl of Oxford was Lord Admiral.

Sir, remembre what ye have to do; there came not suche a casualte in your tyme of your office, &c. Wherfore this, by th'enfourmacion of your sayd debite, cause me to wryte un to you this sympill bille, praying you to pardone me of the writyng, for it was don in hast; and this bille I sent to Willyam Brykkes your servant, to Matelask, by masse tyme, to brynke it to you. And this day they purpose to breke it. Do hereyn now as it please you, and Allmighti God have you and all youres in Hese kepyng; besechyng you that this symple bille may recomaunde my pouer wiff un to your maistershipp.

Wretyn on Candilmas Day, in hast, at Welles.

Your, T. GRIGGES.

907.

A.D. 1489, 10 Feb.

MARGERY PASTON TO SIR JOHN PASTON.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

This letter is erroneously dated by Fenn 1487-8. Although Lord Woodville made an unauthorised expedition into Brittany in the spring of 1488, which is alluded to in No. 904, no succours were sent by Henry for the relief of the Duchy till after the crushing defeat of Duke Francis at the battle of St. Aubin (July 28, 1488). The Duke died on the 9th September following, and his daughter Anne became Duchess of Brittany. Commissions to raise archers for the relief of Brittany were issued in December, and musters were commanded to be taken in February 1489.

To my rygth wurchypful mastyr, Syr John Paston, Knyth, this lettyr be delyvered in hast.

RYGTH reverent and worchypfull sir, in the most owmble wyse I recomand me un to yow, desyryng to here of yowre welfare, the qwech God long contynew.

Sir, myn brodyr Wyllyam recomawnd hym on to yow. And as for the lettyr that ze sent on to hym, he hath schewyd my lord the entent ther off, and he thynkyth hym self, that it is no part of hys dute to have any part of the fysch, or any mony that schuld grow ther of. Never the lasse, my lord, acordyng

as yowr desyre was in the letter, had qwestyond John a Lowe of thys fych, afor the comyng of John Danyel, what he had doon with all; and he answerd, as for the nedyr chavyll [*jaw*] therof, he had put it in sewrte, and leyd it in a howse, be cawse youre debyte [*deputy*] seasyd it to myn lords use, tyll it myth be undyrstond wedyr the propyrte ware in the Kyng or in my lord; and so my lord held hym well content it schud be so, in so moche as the Kyng and my lord have comawndyd John a Lowe that thys forsayd chavyll schuld be browth up to the Kyng in all goodly hast.

Fardermore, my brodyr Wyllyam perseyvyd be yowre wrytyng that ye cowd make the remnawnth of the fych worth a iiij*li.* to my lord. My lord wold ze schuld not trobyll yowre self no more with all, becawse he thynkyth that the propyrte is not in hym. And also anodyr, my brodyr Wyllyam heryth sey in the corte, that the Kyng and my lord be content that the remenaunt of the fych be to the use of them of the cuntre, the wech ze schall here the more serteyn therof here after.

Also my broder Wyllyam seyth, that my lord wyllyd yow that ze schuld send the retorne of the comyscion as hastyly as ze can, and mervell that ze hath not sent it up or thys.

As touards the brekyng up of the Parlement,[1] many lykelywoodes ther be, that it schuld contynew no wyle, and these be they. My Lord the Archebyschop of Yorke departyd as zysterday, and my Lord of Northethomyrlond schall goo as on Fryday; and also all schuch folkys as schall goo in to Breten schall be at Portysmowth on Satyrday cum forthnyth, and the Munday after on see bord, at wech seassun the Kyng intentyd to be ther to take the mustyrs.

And as for thos jantylmen that toke schyppyng to a gon over in to Breten up on a fortnyth a goo, that is to sey, Syr Richard Egecum, the cowntroller,[2] Sir

1 Parliament was dissolved on the 27th February 1489.
2 Sir Richard Edgecombe was controller of the King's household.

Roberd Clyfford, Sir John Trobylvyll, and John Motton, sarjant porter, be a ryvyd ageyn up on the cost of Yngland, save all only Syr Richard Egecum, wech londyd in Breten, and ther was in a towne callyd Morleys, wech a non up on hys comyng was besegyd with the Frenchmen, and so skapyd hardly with hys lyff, the wech towne the Frenchemen have gotyn, and also the town callyd Breest; how be it the castell holdyth, as we here say.

And ther be apoyntyd serteyn captens at thys seasun, wech be Lord Bruke, Sir John Cheney, Sir John of Arundell, Sir John Becham, Sir John Gray, myn broder Awdley, myn unkyll Syr Gylberd Debnam,[1] and Thomas Stafford, and many odyr knytys and esqwyrys.

And, sir, I thanke yow for the lettyr that ze sent me. Also, syr, I have fulfyllyd myn pylgremage, thanke it be God.

Also, sir, we undyrstond that it is anactyd of every x. marke of mevable goodes xx*d.* to the Kyng, besyd the tennyth of every mannys londys.

And, sir, my brodyr Heydon schall send yow the serteyn of all odyr thyngys grawntyd at thys Parlement, for he hath cawsed John Danyell to tery all thys day for hys letter, be cawse he was with the Kyng at Westmestre, that he myth not entend to wryth it tyl nyth.

Also, sir, Master Calthorp hath payd j.C. marke to the Kyng. Also, sir, I have delyverd the x*li.* to Master Hawes, and reseywed of hym the oblygacion. Also, I have delyverd the xx^ti^ marke to Edmund Dorman, be my brodyr Heydons comawndment.

No more to yow at thys tyme, but God and the Holy Trinyte have yow in Her kepyng. And myn syster Anne, with all the company, recomawnd hem on to yow.

Wretyn at London, the x. day of Februar.

Be yowr servaunt, MARGERY PASTON.

[1] Sir Thomas Brews, Margery Paston's father, took for his second wife Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Giles, and sister of Sir Gilbert Debenham.

908.

A.D. 1489, 7 March.

William Paston to Sir John Paston.

[From Fenn, ii. 158.]

This letter was unquestionably written in the reign of Henry VII., and not in that of Edward IV., to which Fenn has assigned it. The writer, William Paston, was only born in the year 1459, and was still pursuing his studies at Eton so late in Edward's reign as the year 1479, in the end of which year his eldest brother Sir John Paston died. The Sir John Paston to whom this is addressed must therefore be the second son of John Paston, Esquire, who was knighted at the battle of Stoke in 1487, and died in 1503. The year in which the letter was written is, however, still doubtful. I do not find by the Privy Seal dates of Henry VII. that such a progress as is here spoken of was ever carried out. Apparently it was intended that, beginning on Monday fortnight after the date of the letter, the King should occupy a fortnight on the way from London to Norwich, and arrive there on Palm Sunday Eve. The year must therefore have been one in which Palm Sunday Eve fell between the 5th and the 11th of April, and Easter Day between the 13th and 19th April. The earliest year that will suit these conditions is 1489, when Easter fell on the 19th April; and that this was the true date of the letter is made probable by several other circumstances. In 1489 the King was staying at Sheen during March. A great council had certainly met in the end of the year 1488 about the affairs of Brittany, and is very likely to have prolonged its meetings or renewed them from time to time to the 3d March following. Moreover, if our date be correct, it supplies an interesting and highly probable fact with regard to Henry, Earl of Northumberland, the fourth of the line of Percy, who was slain in an insurrection in the north in April following, showing that he was with the King at Sheen in the beginning of March, and had undertaken by indenture to protect the Borders against the Scots, not long before he found himself called upon to put down the King's rebellious subjects in Yorkshire.

To hys broder, Sir John Paston, be thys letter delyvered

SIR, I recomaunde me to yow, letynge yow wete that . . . . . .[1]

As for my Lord Treserer,[2] he was not with the Kynge of all the counsell tyme, the whyche was endyd on the iij[de] day of Marche. And theder came my Lorde of Northethombyrland the fyrste day of Marche, and departyd the even afore the makyng of thys letter, and hath endentyd with the Kynge for the kepynge owt of the Schottys and warrynge on them, and schall have large money, I can not telle the some for certeyn.

1 Here follows some account relative to a grant from the Crown, &c.—F.
2 John, Lord Dynham.

Also ther is an rover takyn at Brystowe, on [*one*] Cowper, as I wene, and he is lyke to be hanged, and he confessythe more of hys felawis. Also Edward Heestowe of Dovere is apechyd of treson of many straunge poynts; and hys accuser and he were bothe afore the Kynge, and then they were takyn apert. And he hymselfe confessyd it that hys accusere accusyd hym of, and many other thyngs more than he was accusyd of. And he had many lords and gentylmen to aunswere for hys trowthe and his demenynge afore tyme, for, as I hard sey, bothe the Kynge in a maner, nor non of the tother lords nor gentylmen belevyd not hys accuser, tyl that he confessyd it hym selfe; and so he is in the Towre and lyke to be dede.

As for the Kynges comynge into the contre. On Monday come fortenyght he well lye at the Abbey of Stratteforde and so to Chelmnsford, than to Syr Thomas Mongehombrey, than to Hevenyngham,[1] than to Colchestyr, than to Ipswyche, than to Bery, than to Dame Anne Wyngfelds, and so to Norwych; and there woll he be on Palme Sunday Evyn,[2] and so tary there all Ester, and than to Walsyngham. Wherefore ye had nede to warne Wylliam Gogyne and hys felaws to purvey them of wyne i now, for every man berythe me on hande[3] that the towne schalbe dronkyn drye as Yorke was when the Kynge was there.

Syr, Mayster Sampson recomaunde hym on to yow, and he hathe sende yow a rynge be Edmonde Dorman, and besydys that he requeryd me to wryte on to yow that it were best for yow to purvey yow of some gentyl meny thynges ageyns the Kyngs comyng, for sucre he well brynge yow gests i now, and therfore purvey yow theraftyr. Also he sendythe yow worde that it is my lords mende that my syster with all other godely folkys ther abowt scholde acompeny with Dame Elsebethe Calthrop[4] because there is noo grete lady

[1] Not Haveningham in Suffolk, but Heveningham, Hevingham, or, as it is now commonly written, Hedingham, in Essex, the seat of the Earl of Oxford.

[2] April 11th.

[3] *See* Vol. I., p. 90, Note 1.

[4] Elizabeth, wife of Sir William Calthorpe, was daughter and coheir of Sir Miles Stapleton.

ther abowte ageyns the Kyngs comyng, for my lorde hathe made grete boste of the fayre and goode gentylwomen of the contre, and so the Kynge seyd he wolde see them sure.

Syr, my lorde hathe sente on to the most parte of the gentyl men of Essex to wayte upon hym at Chelmnysford, where as he entendythe to mete with the Kynge, and that they be well apoyntyd, that the Lankeschere men may see that ther be gentylmen of as grete sobestaunce that thei be able to bye alle Lankeschere. Men thynke that ye amonge yow wol doo the same. Your contre is gretely bostyd of, and also the inabytors of the same. I beseche you to remembr my hors that ye promisyd me. God kepe yow.

Wretyn at Schene in haste, the vij. day of Marche, with the hande of your brodyr, WYLLIAM PASTON.

909.

A.D. 1489, 12 March.
THE EARL OF OXFORD TO SIR JOHN PASTON.

[Douce MS. 393, f. 79.]

The date at which this letter was written is uncertain, but it may very probably have reference, like some later letters in this year, to the King's proposed journey northwards, as it will be seen by the last No. that he intended to have visited the Earl at Hedingham.

To the righte worshipfull and my righte intierly belovyd Sir John Paston, Knyghte.

RIGHTE worshipfull and righte intierly belovyd, I commaunde me to you. And acording to the Kyng our soverayne Lordis commaundemente late to me addressid, I desire and pray you that ye woll in all godely haste, upon the sighte hereof, prepare youre selfe to be in a redinesse with as many personnes as ye herbyfore grauntid to do the Kyng servyce in my company diffensibely arayed and therupon so to resorte unto me in all godely haste

possyble upon a day warnyng, horsid and harnessid, to be at the Kynges wayges. And God kepe yow.

Writen at my castelle of Hedingham, the xij. day of Marche. OXYNFORD.

910.

A.D. 1489.

WILLIAM PASTON TO THE BAILIFF OF MAUTBY.

[From Fenn, iv. 310.]

This letter is dated from Heningham, or Hedingham, one of the places which, as we have seen in No. 908, the King was to have visited on his intended journey northwards in 1489. I have little doubt, therefore, that it was written in that year. The writer, according to Fenn, was William Paston, Sir John's uncle; but it is remarkable that in this same year William Paston, Sir John's brother, writes to him from Heningham, and as the signatures of the two Williams were not very unlike each other, one may fairly suspect that Fenn has here made an error. This suspicion is, moreover, confirmed by the fact that Mautby was the property of Margaret Paston, who died in 1484, and that it could not possibly have descended to her brother-in-law William, though her son William may have had an interest in it.

To the Baly of Mawlteby.

MAYSTER Baly, I recomaunde me on to yow, praynge yow that ye woll sende me be Wyl-liam Kokkys[1] berer her of, iiij. nobylles in golde, putt in to the same boxe that thys byll is in, as thow it wer evydens; for I have tolde the masengere that he schulde brynge me nothyng but evydens, for he is in a manere departyng owt of my servyse, wherfore I wold nott he knew so myche of my counsell. And as for the remenaunte, I wellde ze schulde kepe it tyll I come my selfe.

And if Bayard be onsolde, I pray yow late hym be made fatte ageyns the Kynge come in to the contre, what so ever I pay for the kepyng of hym, and I schall wete how goode a corser I schall be my selfe, at my comyng in to the contre, be the grace of God, Who have yow in kepyng.

Wretyn at Henyngham.

Be your, WYLLIAM PASTON.

[1] Fenn prints the name "Hokkys," but as the reading in the modernised version is Cocks, I presume this is a printer's error

911.

Between A.D. 1486-9.
The Earl of Oxford to Edmund Paston.

[Douce MS. 393, f. 81.]

A portion of the lands of Thomas, Lord Scales, whose widow, Elizabeth, married Anthony Woodville, Earl of Rivers,—and among others the manor called Scales's Manor in Hockwold,—descended after the death of this Elizabeth to William Tyndale, who was knighted at the coronation of Arthur, Prince of Wales, on the 30th November 1489. (See Blomefield ii. 180, and Leland's Collectanea, iv. 250-2.) As this letter must have been written after the accession of Henry VII., when the Earl of Oxford returned from banishment, and before William Tyndale was made a knight, the date is between 1486 and 1489.

To my right welbiloved Edmond Paston, Esquier.

RIGHT welbiloved, I grete you wele. And where as certein landes which late were the Lord Scales by title of enheritaunce, be discendid to me, and to my welbiloved cousin William Tyndale, it is accordid bitwixt me and my said cousin that the profites of the said landes, shalle neither be taken by my resceivoire nor his, but that an indifferent persone shalle take and resceive the same profittes to the use of us bothe till suche tyme as a resonable particion may laufully be made in that behalf. Wherfore as wele I as my said cousin, havyng speciall confidence and trust in you, desire and hertly pray you to take the laboure and peyn atte oure costes and charges, to take and resceive the profites of alle the said landes, to oure use and behofe, deliveryng alwey the oon moyte of your receites to my resceivoure, and the other moitee to my said cousin Tyndale, whan so ever the said profites by you so shalle be taken and resceived. Yevyng you full auctorite and power by this my writyng to execute the same.

Written atte Newe Market the vijth day of Aprill.

Oxynford.

912.

The Scales Lands.

[Douce MS. 393, f. 80.]

It is evident that this document is at least three years later than the preceding, but it is placed here for convenience.

EDMUND PASTON, receyvor of the Scalys landes, askyth to be allowed of xij*li.* xij*s.* viij*d.* whiche hangith over his hede in his accompte made bifore Robert Sharp at the Feste of the Pureficacion of our Lady laste paste, for his costes and expenses for two yeres, as hyt apperith in the sayde accomptes.

Item, the sayde Edmund askyth to be allowed for his costes and expenses of this yere, Cxviij*li.* iiij*d.*, beside his costes commynge and goynge to this accompte.

Item, for his rewarde of the saide iij. yeres *ad placitum dominorum.* Whereof ys allowed for his costes by the comaundement of my lorde, *xli.*

Item, allowed by the[1]

Endorsed in same hand as the MS., Billa Edmundi Paston.

913.

A.D. 1489, 22 April.
Henry VII. to the Earl of Oxford.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

This letter was evidently written in the same year as No. 907, in which it is mentioned that Sir Richard Edgecombe and others had gone over to Brittany.

RIGHT trusty and entierly beloved cousin, we grete you well. Inasmuch as it hath liked God to sende us good tidinges oute of Bretayn, such as we dought not but that ye be desirous

[1] Here the MS. breaks off abruptly.

to undrestonde, we wryte unto you of them as thay be comen to our knowlage, and as foloueth.

The Lord Malpertuis, now late with us in ambassade from our dere cousine, the Duchesse of Bretayne, shippid at our porte of Dortmouth, and arrived at Saynt Powle de Lyon, in Bretayn, on Palme Sonday,[1] at iiij. after noone, from whens he wrote us the disposicion and the state of the countre there, and of the landyng and the demeanyng of oure armee. We received his wrytyng on Monday last, at evynsong tyme; and be cause he was of Bretayn borne, and favorable to that partie, we ne gave such trust to his tidinges, as was thought to us surete to wryte to you theruppon.

This daye, aftre High Masse, comyth unto us from oute of Bretayne forsaid, and with a new ambassade from our said cousine, Fawcon, oon of our pursivantes, that ratifieth the newes of the seid Lord Malpertuis, which ben these.

After the garysson of Frenshmen in the towne of Gyngham[2] had certeinte of the landyng of our armee, thei drewe downe the fabours[3] of Gyngham, and made thayme mete to defende a siege; but assone as thei undirstode that our said armee jornayned towardes theim, thei left the same Gyngham, where our said armee arrived the Thursday next before Palme Sonday, and was received with procession, logged and received, refreshed in the town iiij. dayes. And goyng towardes the said Duchesse, thei must passe to the castell and borugh of Monconter. In that castell was also a garnisson of Frenshemen, which incontinently, upon worde that our said armee drwe towardes theym, the Frenshmen did cast downe gret parte of the walles, and fled from thens; in that castell and borugh our seid armee kept thair Estre. The castell of Chawson, adjoyning nere to the towne of Saynt Bryak, was also garnisond with Frenshmen; that castell they set on

[1] 12 April. [2] Guingamp.

[3] Fauxbourgs, which Fenn supposes here to mean portcullises, but I know not if the word was ever used in such a sense. Perhaps what is meant is, that they destroyed the suburbs to fortify their position.

fire, and soo fled in the townes of Henebone and Vannes[1] were garnisond with Frenshmen, which breke downe the walles of the townes, and putte them selff to fligth. Th'inhabitantes a bought Brest have layd siege therunto, and goten the Base Courte of the Frenshmen or the departyng of our said pursivaunt. The garnson of the towne of Concarnewe, which is oon of the grettest strenghes of all Bretayn, was besieged in like wyse, and drevyn to that necessite that thei with in offerid, ar his said departyng, to avoyde the towne with staffe in hande; how that is takyn, or what is more done sithens, he cannot telle.

Oure said cousine, the Duchesse, is in her citee of Raynes; and our right trusti knyght and counsellour, Sir Richard Eggecombe, there also, havyng cheeff rule abowte her; and the Marchall of Bretayn arredieth hym to joyne with them in alle haste with a gode band of men. Mony noble men of that countree repair to our said armee to take their partie.

These premisses in substaunce we have be wrytyng, aswell from the cheff capytaynes of our said armee, as from our comptrollour[2] forsaid. And that our said armee, blessid be God, hath among theyme selfe kepte such love and accorde, that no maner of fray or debate hath bene bitwene theym sithens the tyme of thair departing out this our Reame. Yoven under our signed, at our castell at Hartford, the xxij. day of Aprill.

Syr, thys is the copye of the lettyr that the Kynge sente my Lorde of Oxynford of tydyynges owte of Breten. Be yowre brodyr, WYLLIAM PASTON.

914.

A.D. 1489, 30 April.

THE EARL OF OXFORD TO SIR JOHN PASTON.

[Douce MS. 393, f. 83.]

The Earl of Northumberland was slain in the North on the 28th April 1489, while endeavouring to put down a revolt against payment of the subsidy.

[1] The word "which" appears to be omitted. [2] Sir Richard Edgecombe.

To the right worshipfull and my right welbeloved Sir John Paston, Knyght.

RIGHT worshipfull and right welbeloved, I comaunde me to you. And for as moche as it is certeinly unto the Kynges Grace shewed that my Lord of Northumberland havyng the auctorite to se the Kynges money levied in the North parties, had knowleche that certeyne persones of combnes wer assembled at Topclif, and at a nother lordship of his nygh to the same, saying that they wolde pay no money; my seid Lord of Northumberland heryng therof, and that they wer but naked men, addressed hym self towardes theym withoute eny harneys in pesible maner, trustyng to have appeased theym. Howe be it, as hit is seid, that he is distressed and that they have taken hym or slayne hym; whiche the Kyng entendeth to punysshe. I therfore desire and hertely pray you in all godely haste to be with me at Hedyngham, there for to knowe more clierly the Kynges plesir in this behalve. Writen at Hertford the last day of Aprile.

Also I send to you a comyssion of licence to shepp corne, which I pray you to do to be proclaymed in alle haste. OXYNFORD.

915.

A.D. 1489, 6 May.

THE FARL OF OXFORD TO SIR JOHN PASTON.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

For the date of this letter, see preliminary note to the next.

To the right worshipfull and my right welbeloved counceilour, Sir John Paston, Knyght.

RIGHT worshipfull and right welbeloved counceilour, I comaunde me to you. And where as I understand by your wrytyng that a grete shippe is perisshed with you in thoo parties, and that ye have ben gretely occupied aboute the savyng of the goodes of the same; and that the merchauntes therof ben disposed to put their wynes to sale, of the whiche ye maye by a ton for *Cs.* and litel more; I may by in this cuntrey for iiij*li.*, wherfore if ye may by there eny better chepe, I pray you to purveye for me, such as ye seme necessary.

And forsomoche as ye may nat be here with me at this tyme, I desire and pray you to prepare and ordeyne your self with as many men in harneys as ye godely may, to do the Kyng service in my company, at the Kynges charge and costes, so as ye and they may be with me at Cambrige, upon Tewesday[1] next comyng; and that ye faile nat herof, as my right especial trust is in you.

Writen at my castell of Hedyngham, the vj. daye of May. OXYNFORD.

916.

A.D. 1489, May.
WILLIAM PASTON TO SIR JOHN PASTON.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

It is evident that this letter was written shortly after the preceding, which is dated the 6th May. In that letter Paston is desired to be at Cambridge on the Tuesday following to do the King service, and here we find that it was intended by the King himself to have been there, leading an army against some Northern rebels in person. The expressions in the beginning of this letter leave very little doubt that the insurrection referred to was that in which the Earl of Northumberland was slain on the 28th April 1489.—See Leland's Collectanea, iv. 246.

To hys brodyr, Syr John Paston.

[1] May 12.

SYR, I recomaunde me on to yow. And where as ye desyre that I schulde sende yow worde of suche tydyng as Phylyp Lewes and Wyndesor bryngythe fro the corte, they be come thens bothe, but we here of no tydynges that they brynge, but that yondyr folkys abyde stylle abowte the place where as thys onhappy dede was done, and not with no grete nowmbyr, they sey not paste with v. or vj. C., where they were moste. Howbeyt they have made proclamacions in the cuntrey to mete with oder of ther affynyte as on Tuesday last past, as it aperythe in the copy of ther proclamacion heraftyr folowyng. Also they schewe the Kynge intendythe to holde on hys jurney. And Phylyp Lewes is redyn ageyn to the Kyng, and schall brynge with hym money for all ther wages that schall be in my lordys retynew, as yow and vj. of Syr Wylliam Bolens servauntes and od[yrs.]

Syr, Mr. Clopton sye [*saw*] yowre lettyr, and a seythe he knew my lordes mende suche, that he durste not meve hym with it. Ther was Syr Wylliam Say, but Clopton wolde not it schulde be knowen of non other but your selfe. He sent my lorde be a servaunt of hys xl*li.* to have excusyid hym, and it wolde not be takyn, and that I mervell of. Howbeyt he brake thus fer to my lorde; he asched hym how many he apoyntyd yow to brynge with yow, and he answerde hym xx^ti, and than he schewyd hym yowr charges that ye have had. My lorde seyd ye myght have men a nowe, and ther wages schal be payd for. Clopton aunswerde how that it wolde coste yow large money, besyde ther wages, to hors them and hernes them; and how that, to sey the trowthe, ye were not well at ese.

Not withstandynge all thys, my lorde wyllyd that ye schulde come to hym to Cambryge on Tuesday at nyght, with as many as ye myght, and ye and he schulde do well i now. Soo Clopton thyngyth that and ye brynge a dosen with yow, it is suffycyent; howbeyt that Syr Emonde Bedyngfeld, Syr Thomas Tyrell,

and Syr Ryc. Lewes have ben with my lorde, and yche of them have offyrde to mete with my lorde at Cambryge with xxx. men a pese of them. So I wolde not ye schulde be to ferre undyr them; wherfor I thynke best that ye purvey yow so as and ye schulde goo forthe yor selfe, for I can perseve non othyr wyse.

My bedfelawe Cornwaleys is maryed in the Northe, and he came as yesternyght to my lorde streyt owt of the contre, and he scheythe [*showeth*] non othyr wyse but as I have wretyn here afore in thys lettyr.

Ye schall have for yor self and for yche of your servauntes horsyd and hernessyd xx*s.* in hande at Cambryge for a monthe, and I truste we schal have done or xx. days to an ende, with the grace of God, Who have yow in kepynge.

At Henyngham.

Be your brodyr,

WYLLIAM PASTON.

[*The Rebels' Proclamation.*]

To be knowyn to all the northe partes of England, to every lorde, knyght, esquyer, gentylman, and yeman that they schalbe redy in ther defensable aray, in the est parte, on Tuysday next comyng, on Aldyrton More, and in the west parte on Gateley More, the same day, upon peyne of losyng of ther goodes and bodyes, for to geynstonde suche persons as is abowtward for to dystroy oure suffereyn Lorde the Kynge and the Comowns of Engelond, for suche unlawfull poyntes as Seynt Thomas of Cauntyrbery dyed for; and thys to be fulfyllyd and kept by every ylke comenere upon peyn of dethe.

And thys is in the name of Mayster Hobbe Hyrste, Robyn Godfelaws brodyr he is, as I trow.

917.

A.D. 1490, 27 Jan.
The Bishop of Durham to Sir John Paston.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

To the right worshypful sire, and my right trusty and right entierly wel beloffyd freynde, Sire John Paston, Knyght.

IHΣ. Xρs.

RYGHT wortchipful sire, and myne especial and of long tyme apprevyd, trusty and feythful frende, I in myne hertyeste wyse recommaunde me un to you. And for as myche as I hafe coles and odyr thynges in thise parties, and also ye hafe in those parties cornes, wyne, and wax, and as I am enfourmyd ye be noght evyl wyllyd to dele with me, no more than I am to dele with you in utteryng, and also in receyvyng of suche thynges, the whiche myght be to the profete of us bothe, I ther fore send un to you at thys tyme thys berer, William Walkere, gentylman usshere of my chamber, to commune with you herein, so that by delyberation suche a wey may be takyn in thys byhalfe as may be to the profete of either of us, and wher by our familiarite and frendeship may be encrescyd in tyme to cum. Where un to for our old acquayntance to gedyr, ye shal fynde me ful redy after my powere, by the grace of our Lorde, Who ever kepe you, and send you myche worship and long prosperite.

Scribyllyd in the moste haste, at my castel or manoir of Aucland, the xxvij. day of January 1489.[1]

Your own trewe luffer and frende,

John Duresme.[2]

[1] 1490 according to the modern computation, beginning the year in January instead of on the 25th March.

[2] John Sherwood, Bishop of Durham. He was appointed to that see by the Pope in 1485 at the solicitation of King Richard III. He was a man of high character and learning, and one of the earliest Greek scholars in England.

918.

About A.D. 1490?
Lumen Haryson to [Sir John Paston].

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

This letter was printed in volume v. of the original edition, p. 380. I do not know Sir John Fenn's reason for considering it to have been written "about 1490," but as I see nothing to the contrary, I keep it under his date. The writer was probably one of the German merchants of the Hanse, and the name with which he signs the letter seems to have been a little Anglicised. It is endorsed by Sir John, "Lumen Henrikson."

ONERABYLL and well be lovyd knythe, I commend me on to zour masterchepe and to my lady zowyr wyffe. I thanke zowyr mastyrchepe that ze have don for me. I sen my lady a lytyll pes of Renysch wyne of the best, of x. gallons, and halfe a hondyrd orrygys. I schall send hyr mor a geyns Pencost that sche may have fresche. And Renold have not gyve me the to nobyls and xlj*d.*, that ze told me off for the wyne. And my servys be nyzt and be day to zowr commawndment. Zyff zowyr mastyrchep wyll ony thyng wyth me, I xall be at Cley. No mor than God be wyth zow.

Wrytyn up on the Tuysday aftyr Palme Sonday.

Lumen Haryson,
At zowyr comawndment.

919.

About A.D. 1490?
Sir John Paston to [Lord Fitzwalter].

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

This humorous petition, though it bears no address, was certainly drawn up for presentation to Sir John Radcliff, Lord Fitzwalter, the writer of Letters 902 and 903, for he was lord of the manor of Billingford in Norfolk, and James Radcliff, the farmer of his warren, was evidently his kinsman. The date is probably, as Fenn suggests, "about 1490," certainly before 1495, when Lord Fitzwalter was beheaded. The MS. is a rough draft in Paston's hand.

HUMBLY besecheth your good lordshepe, your dayly servaunt and beedman, John Paston, more kayteff than knyght, that it may please you of your specyall grace to dyrect ought your lettres, sygned with your hand and sealid with your seall, to the dreedfull man, Jamys Radcliff of Byllingforth, Sqwyer, fermour of your wareyn ther, ought of wheys wareyn no maner of man nor vermyn dare take on hym, for dought of your seyd dredfull [man], to take or carye awey eny of your game ther, for fere [of being] hangyd up among other mysdoers and forfaytours, as wesellis, lobsters [*stoats*], polkattys, bosartys [*hawks*], and mayne currys,—that the seyd Jamys shall, upon the syght of your seyd wryghtyng, delyver, or cause to be delyverd, to your seyd besecher or to hys depute, delyverer of your seyd lettres, at hys fyrst syght of the same, vj. coupyll blake conyes or rennyng rabbettys, or some blake and some whyght to the seyd nombre, to store with a newe grownd of your seyd besechers at Oxenhed, more lyeke a pynnefold then a parke. And your seyd besecher shall daylye prey to God for the preservacyon of your noble estate longe t'endure.

920.

A.D. 1490 or later.

The Earl of Surrey to Sir John Paston.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

Thomas Howard, Earl of Surrey, the writer of this letter, fought for Richard III. at the battle of Bosworth, and was taken prisoner. He was, however, after some years' confinement, liberated from the Tower, and taken into favour. In 1489 the King sent him into the North to put down the rebellion in which the Earl of Northumberland was slain, and afterwards made him his lieutenant-general north of Trent; and for ten years he resided continually in those parts. The date of this letter, therefore, cannot be earlier than 1490, though it may be several years later.

To my right worshipfull cousine, Sir John Paston, Knyght.

RIGHT worshipfull cousine, in right harty wyse I commaunde me unto you. And where I understand by Thomas Hartforde, a bower of Norwiche, berer herof, hath been putt to grete vexacion and trouble by oon Thomas Hogan, scomaker, of Norwiche, and that I perceyve ye have harde the matier depending in travers bitwixt the saide parties; I therfore desire you that, in the right of the forsayd Thomas Hartford, ye wolbe unto hym gode maistir, and the bettir for this myn instaunce, as my singler trust is in you.

And where I conceyve also that the same Thomas is noysed in Norffolk for a Scotesman borne, ye shall understande that I perceyve wele, by suche honest folkes as I have hard speke within the citie of York, that the saide Thomas was borne their, and his fathir there inhabityng, and his god fathirs and mothers, the which bee right honest persones; and for that this is true, and not feyned, ye shall understand the Maiour of the citie of York and his brethern hath made grete instaunce unto me to writ for the saide Thomas, for whom I must nedes do, because thaye arre my nye neighbours, as our Lord knoweth, Who have you in His blissid saufegard.

Written in the castell of Shirefhoton, the xxiiijth day of April. Your lovyng cousin,

THOMAS SURREY.

921.

A.D. 1491 (?), 27 March.

THE EARL OF OXFORD TO SIR JOHN PASTON.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

As "Friday se'nnight after Easter" was the 15th April, Easter Day must have fallen on the 3d in the year in which this letter was written. This would suit either 1491 or 1496.

To the right worshipfull and my right intierly welbelovyd counsellour, Sir John Paston, Knyght.

RIGHT worshipfull and right intierly welbelovyd councellour, I commaund me hertely to you. And forasmoche as for certayne especiall causes moving, there be sessions appoynted to be holden at Gyppiswiche, the Friday sevenyght aftre Estre, which shall be the xv. day of Aprile, where I purpose then certaynly to be, and to have aswell the matere by twene Sir Edmounde Benyngfeld[1] and Yelverton[2] there to be harde and commenyd, as diverse othre grete maters in that contrey necessary to be had in comynycacion; I therfor desire and pray you that ye fayle nat to be there the same day, bryngyng with you the forseide Yelverton, trusting that then suche direccion shall be takyn in that matere as can be thought resonable, and to the weale of the parties; nat doubting but that Sir Edmound Benyngfeld shall be there in like wise. And Almyghty God kepe you.

Wretin at my castell of Hedingham, the xxvij. day of Marche.

OXYNFORD.

922.

A.D. 1491, 6 April.
HENRY VII. TO THE EARL OF OXFORD.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

RYGHT trusty and ryght welbelovyd cousyn, we grete yow well, &c. In that ye desyer all the dogers [*fishing smacks*] of thos partes schuld have our licens to departe in the viage towardes

1 Bedingfield.
2 William Yelverton, Sir John Paston's brother-in-law, grandson of the Judge.

Islond, as they have ben accustommyd to do yerly in tyme passyd, and that ye woll undertak they shall have with them no more quantites of graynes then woll only suffice for ther vitallyng and expensis; we late yow witte that owr fully interly belovyd cousyn the Kyng of Demarke hath showyd and compleynyd un to us by dyverse his letters, that when our subjectes come to the seid Islelond, beyng in hys obeissiance, they stelle, robbe, and exstorte his subjectes ther ageynse ryght and conciens. Wherfore, the seyd doggeres fyndyng sufficient surte be forne yow, such as ye will answer unto us, that they shall not have with them no graynes mo then shall only suffice for ther vitallyng, nor odyr thyng woth them that ys for bedyn, and that also they shall not in goyng, comyng, nor in ther beyng at the seyd Islond, take noo thyng but that they treuly pay or agre for, and frendly entrete our seyd cousyns subjectes withowth eny robbyng or exstartyng them in there bodyes ner goodys; we be content the seyd doggeres make ther viages thedyr at ther libertes, eny our wrytyng or comandment mad in to the contrary nat withstandyng; and ellys we woll that our restraynte of ther thedyr goyng stond styll in his strenthe and vertu.

Yovyn ondir our signet, at our maner of Shene, the vjth day of Aprile.

John Ver, Erle of Oxynford, Gret Chambyrleyn and Admirall of Ynglond, Viscount Bulbek, and Lord Skalys, to all them that this present writyng shall see or here, gretyng. And for asmuch as I late have recevyd the Kyng our Sovereyn Lords letters, beryng date the vjth day of this monyth of Aprile, accordyng to a copy of the same, signyd with myn hand, wiche my ritht trusty servant, John Rowe, Marchall of my Admyralite, hath for to showe;

Know ye that I, the seyd Erle and Admirall, have assygned and deputyd my seyd servant to see our seyd Sovereyn Lordes lettyrs pleynly executyd acordyng to

the tenure of the same, and by thys present wrytyng have yevyn to hym full autoryte and pouer to put undyr arest all such doggeres as be dysposyd to mak the viage towardes Islond, to such tyme as they have fownd surte afor me, accordyng to owr seyd Sovereyn Lordys comandment, for ther demenyng in the seyd viagys.

Yovyn under myn signett and signee manuell, the xth day of Aprile the vj. yere of the reygne of our seyd Sovereyn Lord Kyng Hery the vijth.

923.

A.D. 1491? 31 July.
The Earl of Oxford to Sir John Paston.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

The date of this letter is uncertain, but, as Fenn suggests, it is not unlikely to have been written in the year 1491, when it may be supposed that Danish sailors endeavoured to requite the injuries inflicted by the English in Iceland, of which mention is made in the last letter.

To the right worshipfull and my right welbeloved Sir John Paston, Knyght.

RIGHT worshipfull and right welbeloved, I comaunde me to you. And where as I late receyved your wrytyng, beryng date the xxvj. day of this present monthe, by the whiche I understand that one Richard Calle toke certeyne men of werre robbyng upon the coste there; and in somoche as I understand that they be under the obeissaunce of the Kyng of Denmarke, I wolle and desyre you that ye delyver theym unto the seid Richard Calle to take his avauntage of theym as prisoners, seyng my dutee reserved in every thyng, as my trust is in you. And Almyghty God kepe you.

Writen at my castell of Hedyngham, the last day of Jule. Oxynford.

924.

A.D. 1491 [Sept.]—The Old and New Bailiffs of Yarmouth to Sir John Paston.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

"Several ordinances," says Fenn, "respecting corporation business, made by the men of Yarmouth, through Sir John Paston and Lord Oxford's attention to them, received the King's assent by his Attorney-General in 1491. It was for their activity in those matters I presume, that this letter of thanks, &c. was addressed to Sir John." The time of year appears, by the letter itself to be about Michaelmas.

To oure right reverent and worshipfull and special good maister, Maister Paston.

RIGHT reverent and worshipfull sir, and oure veray lovyng and curteys good mayster, we recomaund us on to you in as feythefull wyse as on oure part aperteynith; and hertely we thanke you for your labour and letter, whiche ye sent to us be your servaunt, be the whiche we wer asserteynid of the Kynges pleasure, and to acomplyshe the same, we with the assistens of youre maistirship wyll put us in oure devoir.

We were at your manoir of Castir to have sen your maistirshyp, but ye were departyd as well from Yermouth yistirday, as this day from Castre. We wold have ben joyous to have seen your maistirship, if our fortune so had ben.

Sir, we be enfourmyd that ore old special good Lord of Oxford, in whom we founde as gret favour be the mediacion of your maystirship, as ever we had of any creature, as we have wryting to shewe, in recumpens of whiche at all tymes sethyn hise lordshyp hathe had our preyeris; and now we wold have waytid upon hise lordshyp, but your maystirship knowith well we may not be absent on Mychilmesse Day for dyverse consederacions. Wherfore we beseke your good maystirshyp, ye lyke of your jentilnesse, to recomaund us unto

our seyd good lord, and to make our exkuse to hym, and to do hyse lordshyp [to be] presentyd with a porpeyse, whiche we send yow be the brynger of thys; and if we had any othyr deyntes to do hym a pleasure, we wold, that knowyth God, Whom we beseke of Hyse infenit mercy to preserve the Kyng our Soverayn Lord, and oure seyd good lord, and you, and all the frutys of you from all adversite.

Youre loveres and bedmen, the old
Baliffes of Yermouth, and the newe
Balyffes that now shalbe.

925.

About A.D. 1491 (?) 20 Oct.

THE EARL OF OXFORD TO SIR JOHN PASTON.

[From a MS. in the Bodleian Library.]

The MS. of this letter is mutilated, but it is perfectly intelligible, as it is the first of three relating to the same subject, of which Fenn has printed the second in his fifth volume. The date of the matter referred to is, however, uncertain, and I follow the example of Fenn in assigning the correspondence conjecturally to the year 1491, in which we have other letters from the Earl, as Admiral, to Sir John, as his Vice-Admiral.

To the right worshipfull and my right intierly welbelovyd counceillor, Sir John Paston, Knyght.

RIGHT worshipfull and right intierly welbelovyd counceillor, I comaund me to you. And where as I late have receyved your writing, wherby I . . . . . the demeanyng of Richard Barkeley and his shipp as other, I have ta . . . . . of hym to be redy at all tymes to answer to all suche thynges as can be l . . . . . he demeanyng. I woll therfor that ye suffre hym, his men and shippys, ... d as for a last of hering and an half, whiche I undirstond by hy . . . . . of his, I woll that ye delyver hit to the countroller of

my howshold. A . . . . . o put undyr suertie all suche hering so takyn or revid by the carveyll of . . . . . any other. And God kepe you.

Wretin at Melford, the xx. day of Octobre.

And where as I am enformyd that ye take hym nat for my servaunt, and so he ys noysed in the contrey ther, I woll that hit be knowin that I take hym as my servaunt, and so will do as long as I know no cause of the contrary.

OXYNFORD.

926.

About A.D. 1491 (?) Oct.

THE EARL OF OXFORD TO SIR JOHN PASTON.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

See preliminary note to last letter.

To the right worshipfull and my right intierly welbelovyd councellour, Sir John Paston, Knyght.

RIGHT worshipfull and right intierly welbeloved councellour, I comaund me to you. And where as I undirstond, by your writing to me delyverid by this berar, the roborye and dispoyling of certayn Corvers of Holond and Selond, done by the shipp callyd *the Foole*, wherof Robert Spenser was maister, aswell in herryng, vitayle, and takelyng, as ye be enfourmyd by iij. personnys of the same shippe, and of th'entent and disposicion of the master and feleshyp of the same, whiche shewe, as ye write, that Barkeley, aswell with that shipp as with a prise that he hathe bought, late takyn of the Frenchemen, were disposid and determenyd to do myche harme, wherupon ye have indevorid you to breke the same;

now be hit that the seid Barkeley hath be late with me, and found suertie in a C*li.* to answer to all suche demeanyng, when he shall be callyd; and therupon I wrote to you to suffre hym, his men, and shippis to departe at libertie; yet nevyrtheless, concidering your large writing, I can nat be content in my mynde to suche tyme as I may here bothe you and Barkeley to geder; willing therf[or that ye do] kepe the shippys and goodes in suertie, and to be with me your selfe . . . . . well may, bringyng with you suche iij. personnys as have . . . . . certaynte of this mater; and so I have wretin to Barkeley . . . . . se to answer to the same. And God kepe you.

Wretin . . . . . of Octobre.

Also yf the be eny of the Duchemen . . . . . any sute for ther gode, that ye then cause one of . . . . . to shewe and clayme ther owne. OXYNFORD.

927.

About A.D. 1491 (?) 28 Oct.

THE EARL OF OXFORD TO SIR JOHN PASTON.

[Douce MS. 393, f. 90.]

See preliminary note to Letter 925.

To the right worshipfull and my right welbeloved counceilour, Sir John Paston, Knyght.

RIGHT worshipfull and right welbeloved counceilour, I comaunde me to you. Certifieint you that I wolde have be right glad to have had you, the iij. persones that enformed you of Berkeleys demenyng, and Berkeley togeder, to

th'entent that I myght have had ripe knowleche of their demenyng, to have shewed the Kynge at my comyng unto His Grace. Nevertheles, sith I understand by your late wrytyng, to me brought by the seid Berkeley the xxviij. day of this present monthe, beryng date the Monday next before Seynt Symond Day and Jude, that ther is nat so grete defaute in the same Berkeley as ye by your former writinges to me sent wend [*thought*] ther had be, and that the defaute, if eny be, is in one Spenser, maister of the shippe belongyng to the seid Berkeley, and that ye thynke also that such suretee as I have take of the same Berkeley is sufficient inogh, better or more than nedeth for that cause, and that in your mynde ye thynke he woll be of gode guydyng and demenyng in tyme comyng; I woll and desire you that ye delyver hym his shippes, men, and goodes, accordyng to my first wrytyng to you sent in that behalve. And Almyghty God kepe you.

Writen at my castell of Hedingham, the xxviij. day of Octobre. OXYNFORD.

928.

Year uncertain.

THE EARL OF OXFORD TO SIR JOHN PASTON.

[Douce MS. 393, f. 89.]

This letter is quite uncertain in point of date, except that it must have been written between 1487 and 1503. We place it, therefore, for convenience, after other letters of the Earl of Oxford.

To my righte trusty and righte welbelovyd counceillours, Sir Rauff Shelton and Sir John Paston, Knyghtes.

RIGHTE trusty and righte welbelovyd counceillours, I comaunde me to you. And ffor as moche as one Thomas Charlys of Norwiche late hathe presentid unto me a bille of complaynte agaynste Symonde White, gentyl-

man, dwellyng in Shotesham, shewing by the same suche wrongis as the saide Symonde hathe done and daily dothe to the saide Thomas, as by the saide bille, whiche I sende you with this, more playnely apperith; I therfor desire and pray you that ye woll do calle the saide parties byfore you, and upon due examinacion had upon the mater conteyned in the saide bille, ye take suche direction as may acorde with righte and gode consciens, so as the saide Thomas Charlis heraftur have no cause to resorte to me complaynyng. And Almightie God kepe you.

Writen at my castelle of Hedingham, the xv. daye of Septembre. OXYNFORD.

929.

A.D. 1492, 18 Feb.
WILLIAM PASTON TO SIR JOHN PASTON.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

This letter refers to Henry VII.'s proposed invasion of France, which, after long preparation, actually took place in October 1492.

To the ryght worchepfull Sir John Paston, Knyght.

AFTYR all dew recomendacion, lyke it yow to undyrstond that Syr Herry Heydon schewyd me that it is agreyd be Syr Edmond Bedyngfeld, that the mater betwyx hym and my brodyr Yelverton[1] schalbe comynd at Norwyche, and there a dyreccion to be takyn in the same mater, mete for them bothe.

Syr, the Kyng sendythe ordynaunce dayly to the see syde, and hys tentes and alys [*pavilions*] be a makyng faste, and many of them be made; and there is also grete provysyon made be gentylmen that scholde

1 William Yelverton, the grandson of the Judge, who married Anne Paston, the writer's sister.

goo wythe Hys Grace or hors, harnese, tents, halys, gardyvyans [*knapsacks*], cartes, and othyr thynges that scholde serve them for thys jurney that the Kynge entendythe to take on hand, soo that belykelyod Hys Grace wolbe goyng sone upon Ester. And so I entende, aftyr that I here heaftyr, to goo to Caleys to purvey me of harneys, and suche thynges as I schall nede besydes hors, undyr that forme that my costes schalbe payd fore.

Syr, I am as yet no bettyr horsyd than I was whan I was wythe yow, nor I wote not where to have none, for hors flesche is of suche a price here that my purce is schante [*scarce*] able to bye one hors; wherfor I beseche yow to herkyn [*hearken*] for some in yowre contre. Syr, my cosyn, John Heydon, tolde me that the Prior of Waburnes horse was rially amendyd, and that the Abott of Seynt Benetes schewed hym there was a bay hors of a persons nyght onto Seynt Benetis, and that the abot wolde gete hym for my cosyn Heydon at a resonable price. Syr, my cosyn, John Heydon, woll geve me hys entrest in that hors, if the abot have bowght hym, and so ye may lete the abot have knowlege; and if he have not bowght hym, I beseche yow sende to see hym, for I wote not how to do withowt yowre helpe aswell in horsyng of me as in other thynges.

At the makyng of thys lettyr, I cannot acerteyn yow what person it is that owythe thys hors. If I can know, I wolle send yow worde in a bylle I sende to Thomas Jullys be the berer herof.

Syr, as towardes my jurney to Caleys, the whyche I entende [*intended*] to have tane at my laste beyng with yow, it was so, I was dysapoyntyd of Thomas Dey and an other man I scholde have had be hys menys, as ye have had knowlege of or now; and also I had went [*thought*] to have had folkys a mette with me at Hedyngham, whyche ded nott. My lorde,[1] seyng me dysesyd, and also none otherwyse purveyd, wyllyd me in ony wyse to tary on tyl hys comyng to London, and sent

[1] The Earl of Oxford.

myn excuse to my Lorde Dawbeney undyr thys forme how that I was sore disesyd; notwythestondyng I was welewyllyd to have come to fulfyll my promesse, but he cowde not sofyr me, seyng me soo dysesyd; and so my Lord Dawbeney was sory of my dysese and content that I taryd.

Syr, I beseche yow to holde me excusyd for kepyng of Thomas Lynsted, yowr servaunt, and hym bothe. It is soo that he and I bothe have ben in hand with my unkyll[1] for hys mater, and yett wee have hym at noo good poynt; but I troste we schall have. Syr, if I take thys jurney to Caleys, I moste beseche yow to forbere hym lenger, and if I goo not to Caleys, thow I be lothe to forbere hym, yet I schall brynge hym with me schortly in to Norfolke, ye to have hym, if ye lyste, with the grace of God, Who have yow in kepyng.

Wretyn at London, the xviij. day of February, with the hande of yowre pore brodyr,

WYLLIAM PASTON.

930.

A.D. 1492, 16 April.
ROGER L'ESTRANGE TO SIR JOHN PASTON.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

This letter is probably of the year 1492, when the King was going over to France. But there are other occasions, both earlier and later, on one of which it might have been written.

To the ryth worchypfull Syr John Paston, Knyth, be thys delyveryd.

MASTYR PASTON, I recomawnd me to yow. Syr, so it is that I am not yet purveyd of men to my nowmbyr of archers, suych as chold go hovyr see with me; wer for, syr, I be ceche yow that it wold plese yow at thys tyme to

[1] William Paston the elder.

do so mych for me as to a purveyd me of ij. or iij., such as ye thynk chold be for me.

Syr, I undyrstond Syr Tery Robstertt lyth but lyttyll from yow, were, as I trow, he myde help me of j. by yowyr menys, and as for ther wages, they xall have the Kynges wages and some what elles, so that I trost that they xall be plessyd. Syr, I be cech yow to tak the peyne for me at thys tyme, and I xall do yow that servys that lyth in me, by the grace of Jesu, Ho preserve you.

On Monday next aftyr Palme Sonday, by yowyr howne to hys pouyr, ROGER LESTRAUNGE.

Syr, I be sech yow that thys byll may recomawnd me on to my lady,[1] and I trost I xall a wayt on you sone on Estyr.

931.

About A.D. 1492.

WILLIAM BARNARD TO WILLIAM PASTON.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

The date of this letter is very uncertain, but it is probably about the year 1492, as William Paston does not seem to have been in the Earl of Oxford's service many years before or after that date.

To his right wurchipfull master, William Paston, and Mr Deryk dwellyng with my Lord of Oxinford, this lettir be delyvered in hast.

RIGHT wurchipfull Maister William Paston, with myn good Lord of Oxinford, and myn welbelovyd Mr. Deryk, I recomaund me on to you. And it is soo that I kepe a prisoner of my lordis to answer to William Greve, maryner of Gret Yermouth, the wiche he brought hym to me by my lordis auctorite of a warand from Bell Key; and the seid William Greve chargid me with his prisoner,

[1] Probably Margaret, first wife of the Earl of Oxford.

named Phillyp Barbour, and chargid me with hym for *xli.*, and so I kepe hym, and have kept hym this ij. yer and an half. And I have aftyr and many tymes askyd and requyred of the seid William Greve of mony for his bord, for he promysid and appoynted with me for every weke ij*s.*, and I to take charge for to answer hym of his prysoner aforseid; and so I have be chargith with hym ij. yeris and an half to my gret cost and charge, and nowh the seid William Greve intendith to pay me noon mony, butt he is a bowght to remeve the prysoner by a pryvy seall to abarre me from myn mony. Wher I am enformyd that noon prysoner of my lordis shuld nat be remevyd out of my lordis pryson, nor crafftid so out of pryson till he had answerd ther to seche causes as he lyth fore, and specially for alle suche costis and chargis as his kepar is charged for hym for his costis of exspensis; and that doon, I woll be redy to delyver hym to the seid William Greve [to] pay me for his costis as it shalbe demyd with reason. Besechynd and prayeng you bothen too to be so good ma[istris unto] me that ye woll shewe this mater on to my lord, and to knowe my lordis meend whedyr it shall please hym that I shall delyver hym by a pryvy seall in this causis or nay, for the bryngar herof is the prysoner. And if it be my lordis mend that the prysoner shall appere to that pryvy seall, that it woll plese my lord to be so good and gracyous lord on to the prysoner to send hym to his councell to London, to tendyr this mater for the pore prysoner, and to consydre the gret losse that the seid William Greve intendith to putto his servaunt William Barnard, marchall and kepar of [my] lordis gayle in Yermouth, and servaunt [to?] Robert Crowmer, depute for my lord in the partyes of Norffolk and Suffolk. I shuld a browte up my silf, but we be now in gret besynes in kepyng of my lordis honorabyll courtis in Norffolk and Suffolk.

Wretyn the last day of Aprill.

By your, WILLIAM BARNARD,
that I can or may

932.

A.D. 1492, 14 Sept.—Elizabeth, Duchess of Norfolk, to Sir William Knivet and others.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

The writer of this letter was the widow of John Mowbray, the last Duke of Norfolk of that name, who died in 1475. She survived her husband many years, and Fenn says, though I know not on what authority, that she was alive in 1496. Sir Harry Grey, it appears, made his will on the 28th September 1492 (Blomefield, v. 93), and we imagine this letter was written in the same month and year. The inquisition upon his death was taken on the 26th October 12 Hen. VII. (1496), but it does not state the day on which he died. The jurors found Thomas Martyn, who was then thirty years old and over, to be his kinsman and next heir; but that Ketteringham Hall was devised to the use of his wife Jane and of others after her death.

To my right entyerly and welbelovid frendes, Sire William Knevette, Sire John Paston, Sire Robert Clere, Knyghtes, the Kynges Attorney, Phelippe Calthorpe, Richard Suthwell, Squyers, and to yche of theym.

Elizabeth, Duchesse of Norffolk.

RIGHT entyerly welbelovyd frendys, I comaunde me to you. And for as moche as I understande that Sire Harry Grey, that is the verry owner and possessioner of the maner of Ketryngham, is nowe in gret age, and as it is seide, of right seekely disposicion, and that after his deceasse the right and title therof shall of right belonge to my right welbelovid servaunt Thomas Martyn, and his nevewe and heyre of blood, and his eyre therof by reason of entaylys:—What the seid Sire Harry entendith to do therin, I knowe not, but it rennyth in reporte, that he is in purpose to disherite the seid Thomas Martyn therof, contrary to all right and good conscience. In eschuenge wherof, I desire and pray you as hertely as I can, that it wull leeke you to be so good maistyrs to the seid Thomas as, by your wisdams and discrecion, the seid Sire Harry, by you or some of you, may be moved of conscience and of kyndenesse to his blood

to have regard to the seid right, and not to do eny thyng that shuld be disheryson to his seid nevewe, and to have the more tender consideracion to your mocion, for that the seid Thomas is to dyverse of you of kynne and aliaunce, and to many other gentilmen within the shere in leeke cas. And for the consideracion that I have, that the seid Sire Harry and Thomas his nevewe, were of my lordes nere blode, whoes soule Jesu pardon and assoyle, it were to gret a pete to see hym by disheryson to falle to penury and poverte, wher by your good exortacion in consideracion of the premissis, and mo odir by your wisdamys to be remembred, in the lif of the seid Sire Harry suche inconveniences may be better remadyed; wherin ye shall not only do an almas dede, and a gret pleasir to God, but also to me for that blodes sake a singuler pleasir, and cause me heraftir therather to considir thynge that shall concerne your resonabill pleasir, with Goddes grace, Who ever kepe you.

At Erle Soham, this xiiij^ne^ day of Septembyr.

933.

Before A.D. 1493.

Edmund Paston to Sir John Paston.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

This letter cannot be later than the year 1493, as Sir Roger Townsend died on the 9th December in that year (Inq. p. m. 10 Hen. VII., No. 170). Moreover the will of Elizabeth Clere of Ormesby was proved, according to Blomefield, on the 6th March 1492-3. But as Sir John Paston's eldest son was only born in 1478, the date is not likely to be many years earlier.

To the ryght wurshupfull Sir John Paston, Knyght, be this delyvered.

RYGHT wurshypfull Sir, I recomawnd me to zow. As zesterday I was with my cosyn Clere;[1] he lythe at Borow, and my mastres hys wyveffe,[2] be cause the plage reygnyth at

1 Sir Robert Clere of Ormesby.

2 Probably his first wife Anne, daughter of Sir William Hopton. His second was Alice, daughter of Sir William Boleyn.

Ormysby. And so of hys own mocyon he mevyd to me of the maryage of my nevew zour soon, and as glad foolkes woold be to bargayn as ever ze wyste, and soo hathe shewyd me that ze shuld have as myche as Sir E. Bedyngfelld, whyche was v. C. marke. Moore over he shewyd that he woold depart with it to Sir Roger T.[1] or to Harry Colett, whyche he shewyd ze woold not of, but to have the mony at zour dysposyssyon; and me semys be hys report that he knowyth well that yf ze delle with Sir H. H.,[2] he wyll be in a suerte that the mony that he shuld depart with shuld goo to the redemyng of zour landes, and other zour dawngeres. More over he shewyd me that the mony whyche ze skyftyd of H. Colett was th[oug]ht be Sir Harry H. that Sir R. Townesend shuld have ben contentte with it, whyche is knowyn the contrary, and causyd hym to geve delay in that be halffe to zow. I know well this jantylman berythe zow as good mynde as any man alyve, my mastres hys mother,[3] and allso my mastres hys wyve in lyeke wyesse; and me semys he makys not the dowghttes to delyver zow hys mony that other men do of the delyverye of thers. Foor trowthe, he shewythe me hys mynde, whyche is thus: yf ze wyll putt lande in feffement for zeres, to the full contentacyon of Townesend, Colett, and of my uncle, whyche he and all men thynke ze muste be charged to, or ever ze goo thorow, and that zour next frendes have the receyte of it tyll it be full contente and payed, thus, or suche a suer weye to be had for the well of all parteys, I darre say he is not alyve wyll indevour hym with better wyll to deele with zow, and, as my mynde servys me, streytte hymsylffe, as it may be booryn, be syde my mastes hys modyrs v. C. My mastres hys wyffe, on my feythe I darr say, the moste harty body to zow wordes in this be halffe that is alyve, and the fayneeste body woold be to have it accomplyshyd.

[1] Townsend. [2] Sir Henry Heydon.

[3] Elizabeth, widow of Robert Clere of Ormesby, the father of Sir Robert. She was the daughter of Thomas Owydale, Uvedale, or Dovedale, of Tacolneston, in Norfolk.

Syr, I thenke ze be to wardes London, and well I woot zowre mynde is to ease zour sylffe as hastely as ze may; I pray God ze do to zour honur, and to zour moste well to gederys.

Marchandes or new jantylmen I deme wyll proferr large; noon other dyspreysed, ze know the contynewance of this man, and how he is alyed. Well I woott yf ze depart to London, ze shall have proferes large; yf zour jornay be not but to ease zow in that be halfe, be my poor avyce slake for iij. or iiij. days, for ever me semys I shuld not have ben brokyn to so largely, but that they entende it hastely to say to zow. Sythe I was ther, I undyr stande yf it had not happyd me to have seyne them as zester day, she wold this day have made her cowntenance to have seyn her nes, Bothas (?) dowter, wyche is at Pallynges for fere of the plage, and have comyn seyne [*come and seen*] my wyffve, and specyally to have de syrid us to meve zow towardes them, and in trowthe so she hasse.

I pray God ze do as well to zour honur as I woold do my sylfe. Yf ze wyll tery thys lytell season be foor rehersyd, yf ze lyste, I woott well ze may have the mater moor largely comyned; and yf ze tary tyll Monday, I wyll awayte on zow to Hynengham, with Godes grace, Who ever preserve zow and zours.

Your, E. PASTON.

934.

A.D. 1493 (?) 28 Feb.—ELIZABETH, DUCHESS OF NORFOLK, TO SIR JOHN PASTON.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

It seems probable that this letter was written in the February following the date of No. 932.

To my right welbeloved frende, Sire John Paston, Knyght.

ELIZABETH, DUCHES OF NORFFOLK.

COMMAUNDE me to you, thankyng you as hartely as I can for your labour and substan cyall serching owte of Thomas Martynz matyr, preing you of contenuance, and of your best advyse therin, how he shall breke the mater so as, by your helpe and wysdam, a frendely comunycacion may be hadde, so as the mater may be had in examynacion by suche gentylmen as shalbe named by th'assent of bothe parties, suche as tendyr and love the wele of bothe parties, and also the pees and tranquyllyte of the cuntre, and love to eschewe variaunce and parties in the cuntre, wherin ye shall not only do a greete pleasure to me, but a grete dede of charyte for the profight and ease of bothe parties, and also a pleasrue to God, Who have you in keping.

At Erle Soham lodge, this xxviij. day of February.

N. E. N.

935.

A.D. 1494, Nov.
Sir T. Lyng to Sir John Paston.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

This letter gives the list of the Knights of the Bath made on the occasion of Henry the King's second son being created Duke of York in 1494.

To my rigth wurchypful master, Sir John Paston, Knyth, in hast.

EMORANDUM, that thes be the namys that war mad Knytes of the Bath, the Thwrsday be for Alhalow Day.

Fyrst, My Lord Herry, Duke of Yorke.
My Lord Haryngton, Lord Marcas sun.[1]
My Lord Clyfford.
My Lord Fyvaren.

[1] Thomas Grey, son of Thomas Grey, first Marquis of Dorset, who succeeded his father in 1501.

My Lord Dakyr of the Sowth.
My Lord Strange. Lord Stranges sun.
Sir John Arundell of the West.
Sir Water Grefyth of Lonkaschyre.
Sir Jarveys a Clyffton of Yorkechyre.
Sir Roberd Harcorth of the West.
Sir Edmund Trayford.
Sir Herry Marney of Esexe.
Sir Roger Newborow.
Sir Raff Rither of Yorkechyre.
Sir Thomas Bawd of Harforth chyre.
Sir John Speke.
Sir Houmfrey Fulford.
Sir Roberd Lytton.
Sir Pers Egecome.
Sir Roberd Clere.
Sir Thomas Fayrefaxe.
Sir Richard Knythley.
Sir Wyllem Cheke.

Also Master Robert Southwell is Hey Schreve of Norffolke.

Memorandum, that saforn is at xvj*s.* j*li.* the lowest price.

Also, the Kynge and the Qwene went crowned on Halowmesse Day last; and my Lord of Schrewsbery bare my Lord Harry, Duke of Yorke, in hys harmys; and x. byschopis, with myters on ther hedes, goyng be for the Kyng that day rownd a bowt Westmynster Hawle, with many odyr gret astates.

Sir, ther hath be so gret cownsell for the Kynges maters, that my Lord Chawnsler kept not the Ster Chawmber thys viij. days, but one day at London, on Sent Lenardes Day.

Be yowre pore prest and servaund,
SIR T. LYNG.

The lowest pryse of saforn is xvj*s.*
Item, the Knytes of the Bath.
Item, the Knytes of the Schyre.

Item, of recordes a yenst me.

Syr, ther hath record a yenst me, Syr John Seyve, Vecry of Barton, John Anond, Richard Elwyn of Wytton, John Bowlond of Totyngton, sumnor, whech arne all forsworyn on the Crwsifyxe a yenst me.

936.

A.D. 1495, 11 July.

The Corporation of Yarmouth to Sir John Paston.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

This letter refers to the attempt of Perkin Warbeck at Deal, where a number of his followers landed on the 3d July 1495, and were all either killed or taken prisoners by the people.

To our right honorable and especyall good maister, Ser John Paston, Knyght, this letter be delyvered in hast.

RIGHT wurchipfull ser, we recomaund us onto your good maistership, sertefyeng you that Robart Albon of Yermouth with many more of our neybors, this Saterday arn comen hom from Caunterbury. And Robart Albon hath spokyn with the English captayns of the Kynges rebellys ther, part of theym that arn takyn; and Robart Albon and his company seith that ther wer takyn and slayn to the noumbre of vij^{xx}, wherof were v. capteyns. iiij. of them he named, oon Mounford, Whyght, Belt, and Corbett: he coude nott telle the fyfft capteyns name. And they told hym that they have apoynted to have a town of strength, for they wold an had Sandwich, and the countre had nott a resistid them. And so Belt seid on to Robart Albon he wyst weell that he was but a deed man, and for asmoche as he wist that he was of Yermouth, he shewid hym that they woll have Yermouth or they xall dye for it, as Robart seyth to us.

And this is a mater of trewth, and therfore we desyre and pray your good maistership, that we may

have your myghty help of ayde and socowr, and that it woll please you to comon with Maister Mayer of Norwiche, to meve hym of hys sokour, but in especyall that we may have your maistership amongs us, with suche strength of your good councell, as your maistership shall thynk most best for the Kynges pleasur, and for the sewyrtye of us alle; for we putt us in devyr to furnysh the town with all that we can doo, for we know noon oder but that they may be here by possybylyte this nyght or to morow att nyght at the ferdest. No more to you, but Jesu preserve you.

Wretyn at Yermouth, in hast, this Saterday, the xj day of July.

Be your owyn, the Balyffes of Yermouth, with our Brethern and Comons of the same Town.

937.

A.D. 1495, 12 July.

Robert Crowmer to Sir John Paston.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

This letter refers to the dispersion of Warbeck's fleet after the attempt at Deal. It would appear, as Fenn remarks, that on receipt of the preceding letter Sir John had promised aid to the town of Yarmouth, for which promise they here return thanks. The handwriting of this letter is the same as that of the last.

To my right especyall and syngler good maister, Ser John Paston, Knyght, this letter be delyvered.

WURCHIPFULL ser, I recomaund me on to you. Maister Balyffes, with alle myn Maisteris of the town of Yermouth, thankith you hartilly, and trustyng feythfully of your ayde and comford at neede; and if any suche cause happith with us, they woll feythfully send you word in all the hast possyble, up on the syght of the shippis.

Ser, ferdermor, ther is a ship of our town come hom from Seint John of Amyas, and he seyth that on Seint

Thomas Day[1] ther came to Seint Wallrens,[2] in Normandie, an hoye of Dorderyght, with viij. horsis, with many saddilles and brydilles; ther in wer viij. or ix. Englysh men, the wiche toke the shippes boot, and went on lond at Staplis,[3] and arn renne a wey up in to the cuntre. And the Admiralles Depewty sesonyd the ship and hors, and all that they found ther in, to the Kyng our soverayn Lordes behooff; and the Duche men were leyde in pryson. This is a mater of trowth, for William Carre of our town, maryner, and oder of our town, see this doon in deed. And as for the shippes with the Kynges rebellars, they be furth out of Cambyr[4] westwards; whyder they be, thei can not sey, but the Duche men seid to William Carre that they trustid on one man shuld help them with many men. Thes is suche tydynges as the Amyas men brout hom.

Ser, if it woll please your maistership that ye myght have leyser, I desyre and pray you to come sporte you, and to see how weell we have appareld and furnyshid our town, I wold be right gladd, and I trust to Almyghty God that it wold please your maistership right weell, and with your betyr advyce we woll doo more to our power, that knowith God, the wiche Lord preserve you.

Wretyn at Yermouth, on Relyk Sonday.[5]

By your servaunt, ROBART CROWMER.

938.

About A.D. 1495?
WILLIAM PASTON TO SIR JOHN PASTON.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

Fenn says, I cannot tell on what grounds, that this letter must have been written between 1491 and 1495. At the earlier of these dates the writer could

1 The Feast of the Translation of St. Thomas Apostle, 3d July.
2 *Qu.* St. Vallery?
3 Etaples.
4 The point called the Camber, near Rye.
5 Relic Sunday is the third Sunday after Midsummer Day, and fell on the 12th July in 1495.

not have been more than twelve years old, but as lads were sent to the university at a much earlier age in those days than in ours, even the earlier of these dates is not impossible. The style of the letter, however, is not boyish, and I should have been inclined to place it a year or two later even than Fenn's latest date, but that there is no clear evidence to go by. The sweating sickness was prevalent in England at different times during the reign of Henry VII.; and there is no particular record of its visiting Cambridge.

To my most special good father, Ser John Paston, Knyght.

AFTER most humbyl wyse of recommandacion, in my most lovyngly wyse, I beseche yow of your dayly blyssyng, showyng yow that I am at Ser John Fortescu place, be cause they swet so sor at Cambryge. Also I shew yow that Mr. Thomas Clark ys desessyd, hows sowle God have mercy.

Also, I beseche yow that ye wol se a remedy for the comun of Snaylwel, for the Bayly of Snaylwel and on of your fermors war with my tutor and me, and sheuyd me that all the comun shuld a be takyn away butt for Mr. Cotton and the Vecur of Fordan,[1] hom I beseche yow to thank. Fro Pamsborow.[2]

Be your most humbyl servaunt,

WILLIAM PASTON.

939.

After A.D. 1495.—SIR JOHN PASTON TO WILLIAM PASTON AND RICHARD LIGHTFOOTE.

(From Paston MSS., B.M.)

This letter is anonymous, but is in the handwriting of Sir John Paston, the younger of that name. From the mention of his wife and "the widow, her daughter Leghe," it was evidently written not during the life of Margery Brews, his first wife, who must have died about the year 1495, but after his marriage to another. This second wife was Agnes, daughter of Nicholas Morley, Esq., of the well-known family at Glynd, in Sussex, and had already been twice married before her marriage with Sir John. Her first husband was John Hervey, Esq. of Thurleigh, Beds, Usher of the Chamber to King Edward IV. Her second was John Isley of Sundridge, Kent, by whom she had a daughter, Isabel, married to John Leghe or Alyghe of Addington, Surrey, Esq., who proved his father-in-law's will in 1494. She, herself survived her own third husband, Sir John Paston, and died in 1510. Her will, in which she calls herself "Dame Agnes Paston," is at the principal registry at Somer-

[1] Fordham in Cambridgeshire, north of Newmarket. Snailwell lies between.
[2] Punsborne, near Hatfield, in Hertfordshire.

set House, dated the 31st May in that year, and proved on the 19th June following. For these particulars I am indebted to the genealogical researches of Colonel Chester.

To my brother William Paston and my cosyn Richard Lightfoote, and to iche of theym.

MASTYRS bothe, I recomand me to yow, and send yow closid herin a booke of the seying of dyvers folkis, whiche testyfiee ayenst Thomas Rutty and other. I prey yow shewe it to my lordys[1] good lordshepe, and that I may know hys plesur ferther in as hasty wyse as may be, that I may ordre me ther aftyr. I had gret labore to come by the woman that was in servyse with Rutty, whiche sie [*saw*] all ther conversacyons many yeris. She is now in servyse with Richard Calle. And I have Thomas Bange in prison at Norwyche with the Shrevys of Norwych. The woman seythe he is as bold a theffe as eny is in Ingland; but he wyll nowghte confesse, nor I handelyd hym not sore to cause hym to confesse. But and Ruty knewe that he and the woman be in hold, and hathe told talis, I thynke it wyll cause Rutty to shewe the pleynesse.

Clerk and Roger Heron are endightid at this sessyons at Norwyche, last holdyn on Twysday last past, for robbing of the pardoner; and so is Rotty and all his felawshepe that the woman hathe apechid. According to hir apechement, Raff Taylour is over the see; Robert Fenne is dede; John Baker and William Taylour ar yett untakyn. If my lord send for T. Bange or the woman, some of my lordis servauntes had need to come for theym; for I can not do in the cause for lake of men and horse, for my wyff ridith this next week in to Kente, to the wydow, hir doughtir Leghe.

And as for Ramesey, liek a prowde, lewde, obstynat foole, he wyll not come befor my brothe[r] Sir R. Clere, nor me, but he seythe he wyll be with my lord hastyly, and shewe hys mynde to his lordshepe, whiche

[1] The Earl of Oxford.

I beleve not. The substancyall marchantys of Norwyche hathe shewid ther myndys to my brother Sir R. Clere and me that he entendith to William Bayly gret wronge in his reknynges.

940.

After A.D. 1495.

THE EARL OF OXFORD TO SIR JOHN PASTON.

[From Douce MS. 393, f. 86.]

This letter is probably later in date than the last, as it would appear that when the last was written, William Paston was still in the Earl of Oxford's service.

To the right worshipfull and my right intierly welbelovyd Sir John Paston, Knyght.

RIGHT worshipfull and right intierly belovyd, I commaund me hartely to you. And where as your broder William, my servaunte, ys so troubelid with sekenes and crasid in his mynde, that I may not kepe hym aboute me, wherfor I am right sory, and at this tyme sende hym to you, prayng especially that he may be kepte surely and tendirly with you, to suche tyme as God fortune hym to be bettyr assurid of hym selfe and his myndes more sadly disposid, whiche I pray God may be in shorte tyme, and preserve you longe in gode prosperite.

Writen at my place in London, the xxvj. day of Juyn.

OXYNFORD.

941.

Between A.D. 1497 and 1503.

MARGARET, COUNTESS OF RICHMOND, TO ———.

[From Sandford's Paston Genealogy.]

William Paston, the uncle of the two Sir Johns, died in 1496, and this letter must have been written either in the year following or between that date and 1503, when Sir Reginald Bray died. William Paston's will, which will be found in the Appendix, was dated 7th September 1496, and proved on the 28th November following. He married Anne Beaufort, daughter of Edmund, Duke of Somerset, and was therefore uncle to the writer of this letter, Margaret, Countess of Richmond, the mother of King Henry VII. The person to whom the letter is addressed is not named, but it is not unlikely to have been Sir John Paston the second.

By the Kinges Moder.

TRUSTY and right welbeloved, we greet you well. And wher by the meanes of our trusty and right welbeloved Sir Reynold Bray, Sir Thomas Lovell, and Sir Henry Heydon, Knights, there was a full agreement made and concluded, and also put in writinge, betwen our trusty and right welbeloved Sir John Savile, Knight, and Gilbert Talbot, Esquier, on th'one partie, and yow on th'other, for divers lands which they ought to have in the right of their wives, daughters and heyers to William Paston, Esquier, their late fader deceassed, which lands ye by mighty power kepe and withholde from them without any just title, as they afferme; and albeit the said agrement was made by your minde and consent, yet ye ne doe performe the same, to our merveile, if it be so. Wherefore we desier and also counsell yow without delay upon the sight hereof now shortly to ride to the court to the said arbitrators, now ther being, with whom ye shall finde your adverse partie, or other in their names fully authorized, to abide such final ende and conclusion in the premisses as shall be consonant with the said agrement, without further troubles or busines therin hereafter to be had; and that ye will thus do in any wise, so as we be not driven (through your defalte) to put to our hands for further remedye to be had in the premisses.

Yeven under our signet at our mannor of Colly Weston, the xth day of February.

942.

A.D. 1499, 20 Aug.—The Earl of Oxford to Sir John Paston and another.

[Douce MS. 393, f. 87.]

Edmund de la Pole, Earl of Suffolk, escaped abroad on the 1st July 1499, and proclamations were issued on the 20th August following (the day on which this letter was written) against persons leaving the kingdom without a license. —(See my "Letters and Papers, illustrative of the Reigns of Richard III. and Henry VII.," vol. i., preface p. xl., vol. ii. p. 377). It appears that the King was at this time staying at Godshill, in the Isle of Wight, the place from which this letter is dated (see *Excerpta Historica*, p. 122.)

To my right trusty and right welbel[oved Sir] John Paston, Knyght, and Sir . . . . . Knyght, ... of them.

RIGHT trusty and welbeloved councellours, I comaunde me to you. And where the Kinges Grace is lately acerteinyed that Th'Erl of Suffolk is departid owt of this his Realme, Hys Grace hath commaundid me to wryte unto you that ye incontynent uppon the sight of this my writing endeovour you to enquyre aswell of such persones as be departid over with the seid Erle as of theim that accompanyed hym in his repayre to the see, and retornyd ageyn, or in any wyse were prevy to the same, and theruppon, in as goodly hast as ye kan, to put them and every of them in suertie savely to be kept, and therof t'acerteyn me, to th'entent ye maye knowe his ffurther pleasure in the same. And if ye shall at any tyme herafter perceyve any suspect person nyghe unto the see costes which shall seme unto you to be of the same affynyte, than His Grace will that ye put them in lyke suertie. And Almighti God have you in His keping.

Written at Gaddishill, in the Ile of Wight, the xx^ti^ daye of August.

Oxynford.

943.

A.D. 1500, 20 March.
Henry VII. to Sir John Paston.

[From the Paston Genealogy, compiled by Sandford, and printed by Mr Worship, in the *Norfolk Archæology*.]

Catherine of Arragon was expected in England in the spring of the year 1500, although she did not actually arrive till October 1501, owing to some alteration of plans.

To our trusty and welbeloved knight, Sir John Paston.

By the Kinge.

TRUSTY and welbeloved, we grete yow well, letting yow wete that our derest cousins, the Kinge and Queene of Spaine, have signified unto us by their sundry letters that the right excellent Princesse, the Lady Katherine, ther daughter, shal be transported from the parties of Spaine aforesaid to this our Realme, about the moneth of Maye next comeinge, for the solempnization of matrimony betweene our deerest sonne the Prince and the said Princesse. Wherfore we, consideringe that it is right fittinge and necessarye, as well for the honor of us as for the lawde and praise of our said Realme, to have the said Princesse honourably received at her arriveall, have appointed yow to be one amonge others to yeve attendance for the receivinge of the said Princesse; willinge and desiringe yow to prepare yourselfe for that intent, and so to continue in redynesse upon an houres warninge, till that by our other letters we shall advertise yow of the day and time of her arrivall, and where ye shall yeve your said attendance; and not to fayle therin, as ye tender our pleasure, the honor of yourselfe, and of this our foresaid Realme.

Yeven under our signet at our mannor of Richmount, the xx^ty^ day of Marche.

944.

Before A.D. 1503.
Richard Calle to Sir John Paston.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

From the mention of "Master Fitzlewes, Knight of Essex,' I am inclined to think this letter must be of the reign of Henry VII., and addressed to the later Sir John. Sir Lewis Fitzlewes of West Horndon, in Essex, was attainted as a Lancastrian in 1471, but the manor was restored to his son, Sir Richard, by Henry VII., who presented to the living from 1494 to 1519. The letter, however, must of course be earlier than 1503, the year in which Sir John Paston died.

To the right reverent and honurable, my master, Sir John Paston, Knyght.

PLESITHT it your mastership to remembre, I shewyd onto you in Lente that I had bought Baktons place. Sir, it is so that John Bakton graunted to John Trovy hes sone in lawe, hes mese with all the londes and tenements, &c., takyng of the seide John Trovy viij. marke of annuyte yerly, terme of hes lyf; wherupon endenture were made and a state delyverd. Upon the weche I bargeyned with Trovy, payng to hym for hes parte c. marke and x., wherof he hadde in hande iiij*li.* vj*s.* viij*d.* and xv*li.* xiij*s.* iiij*d.* shulde be payd at such tyme as I had a lawfull astate, weche was apoynted before Michelmes last past; weche is not yet done. Wherfore he hath forfeted an obligacion of xl*li.* that he was bounde in to me for the same astate; ther was no defaute in me, for my money was there redy. And, sir, in the same weke after your mastership departed out of this contre, Bakton and the seide Trovy come to Bakton, and sent for me, and there were we appoynted for the same bargeyn and accorded, wenynge to me and to all tho that were there it had ben fully concl[uded] . . . . . my suertes and for all other thynges. And sodenly Bakton departed hem

be the avice of [the Prior of Bro]mholme, and John Bowle and other, weche meved Bakton that I shulde not have my bargein; and so they entende to putte me from my bergein. And Master Fitzlawes, Kn[i]ght, of Esex, hath sent me a letter, weche I sende you closed herin; and at hes enstaunce I have graunted Trovy an ende for vj*li.* and my iiij*li.* vj*s.* viij*d.*, and my costes that I have done on the place, weche with these mony and costes drawith xij*li.* If I may have all thes money payd onto me within xiiij. dayes after Cristemas, I wol take non avauntage of the obligacion, weche Trovy is bounde to me. I suppose Mr Lawes woll speke to you of thes mater. I beseche you that ye wol be goode master to me herin, for I am lothe to be putte from my bergein. I am in suerte there is no man wol geve so moche for it as I wolde, and they nede not to fere them of ther payment, for I ofer them iiij. suertes, the worste of them is worthe all the lande; yet Bakton mystrustes me, and nede not. If I had it, I wolde truste to make it a goode thynge, for ther is moche thynge ther by that myght be had in to it, weche causeth me to be the more desirous to it. I shewe your mastership the previte of my mynde, trustynge ye wolbe good mastre to me, and I shal pray to God for you and for all youres.

Wreten at Felmyngham, the Saterday next before Sein Marteyn.

Be your servaunt,

R. CALLE.

945.

ABSTRACT.—Year uncertain.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

[RICHARD CALLE] TO [SIR JOHN PASTON ?].

Reminds him that four or five years ago he received from the writer "certain wainscoat" and certain fish for his household, a

hogshead of wine, spars, "clapholt," &c. in full discharge of all former debts. Will always be ready to repay what his correspondent has paid for him to the King. Received of him a millstone, price £3, for which Calle gave a ryall in earnest, and delivered 1 quarter cod to Philip Loveday. I am grateful for the pains taken by "your mastership" on my account, &c.

[The handwriting of this letter seems to be that of Richard Calle, but much older looking than that of most of his letters. As there is no distinct evidence of date, we place it after another letter of his, which seems to be late.]

946.

Before A.D. 1503.
Sir John Kendal to Sir John Paston.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

Sir John Kendal was Prior of St. John's from 1491 to 1501, and probably later, so that there is nothing clearly to fix the date of this letter, except that it was written before the death of Sir John Paston in 1503.

To the right worshipful and my right entierly welbeloved cosin and frende, Sir John Paston, Knight.

RIGHT worshipfull sir, I recommaunde me unto you. I wryte this onely unto you, to advise you that I was mynded that my cousin Clippesby,[1] berer herof, shuld wele have maryed here in thies partes, wherin your nyce[2] toke hevy conceyte, thinking in hir mynde, that I was not willing that my said cousin shulde marye with hir.

At that tyme I knewe not what love was bitwix them, but now I undrestand that bothe there myndes is to mary to geders; wherunto on my parte, I am agreble and wel content, desiring and praying you to be the same, and to be the better frende unto them at this my prayer and instaunce. And what pleasir as I may doo unto you in thies partes shal be redye, in that I may, at your desires. And I pray you to recom-

1 John Clippesby, Esq. of Oby.
2 Constance, daughter of William Paston, Sir John's brother.

maunde me to my cousin your nyce. And Jesu preserve you.

Writen at London, the first day of Juyn.

Your own, the Priour of Saint Johns,

SIR JOHN KENDAL.

947.

Year uncertain.—MARGARET, COUNTESS OF OXFORD, TO SIR JOHN PASTON.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

I see nothing certain about the date of this letter, except that it must have been addressed to the later Sir John Paston (for in his brother's time the Earl of Oxford was an exile, and his Countess Margaret in needy circumstances), so that the date must lie between 1488 and 1503. For what reason the Countess calls Sir John her son I cannot explain.

To my right trusty and hertely wilbilovede sone, Sir John Paston, Knyght.

RIGHT trusty and hertely wilbiloved sone, I recommennde me to you, and send you Godes blyssynge and myn. And where oon John Malpas my olde servaunt, brynger herof, hath purchacede a writt directede to you and othre Justices of Peace in the shires of Norffolk and Suffolk, and also to the Sheryff of the same, for to put hym in pessible possescion in such certayn landes of his, accordynge to the Kynges writt; I pray you therefor hertely, and of my blyssynge charche you that at this my pour request and desir ye wole pute you in your faythfull devoir with othere Justaces associete with you, to see the execuscion doon and performyede accordynge to the saide writt. And Almyghty God evere more preserve you, my nown dere sone.

Writene in my lordes castell of Hethyngham, the xv. day of January.

MARGRET OXYNFORD.

948.

The Earl of Oxford's Steward to the "Black Knight."

[From Fenn, iv. 458.]

The "Black Knight," to whom this facetious doggrel was addressed, seems to me to have been most probably the later Sir John Paston, whose services the Earl of Oxford, as the reader is aware, continually made use of. The manor of Knapton came to John, 12th Earl of Oxford, who died in 1462, by his marriage with Elizabeth, grand-daughter of Sir John Howard.

Sinescallus Comitis Oxoniæ Nigro Militi.

NON decet Sinescallo tam magni Comitis
Ut Comes Oxoniæ verbis in Anglicis
Scrittere epistolas, vel suis in nuncijs
Aliquid proponere si non in Latinis.

Igitur ille pauperculus prædicti Comitis
Magnus Sinescallus magni Comitatis
Nuncupatur Norff. Latinis in verbis
Apud Knapton in curia in forma Judicis.

Tibi nigro militi salutem, et omnibus
Notifico, quod Langdon ille homunculus
Nullam pecuniam liberare vult gentibus,
Quod est magnum impedimentum nostris operibus.

Idcirco tibi mando sub pæna contemptus,
Quod tu indilate proprijs manubus
Scribas tuas lettras, quod ille homunculus
Copiam pecuniæ deliberet gentibus.

Sin autem per littras has nostras patentes
Ego et operarij, qui sunt consentientes
Omnes una voce promemus suos dentes
Nisi liberet pecuniam, cum simus egentes.

Teste meipso apud Knapton prædicta,
Est et michi testis Maria Benedicta,
Quod vicesimo die Julij non inde relicta
Erat summa solidi, res hæc non est ficta.

949.

A.D. 1503, 6 Feb.—East Beckham.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

WHERE Sir John Paston and Rogir Townesende have agreed and promysed to obey as we, Jamys Hobart and John Yaxley will devyse for the varians of the maner of Estbekham: We devyse and a warde that Sir John Paston shall have the seid maner to hym, and to his heires; and he therfor shall paye to the seid Rogyr xl*li.* at Pentecoste nexte, and at Halowmesse nexte aftyr that xl*li.*, and at Pentecoste next aftyr that xx*li.*; and the same Syr John shall have the arrerages of the seid maner. And if the seid Sir John refuse to have the maner, then the seid Rogyr to have the same maner, with the arrerages as is a forseid, payeng to the seid Sir John the seid C*li.* at the dayes aforseid; and the seid Syr John to geve answer which he will chose the viij. daye of this moneth.

Yevyn the vj. daye of Februarii, anno R. R. H. vij. xviij°.

And all this to be perfurmyd and put in surte after our avise. And we devise that he that shall have the land, shall paie to th' other at Halwemes come twelvemonyth, ten mark, besides the seid C*li.*, because th'arrerages have ben long in the tenauntes handes.

John Yaxlee.
Jamys Hobart.

950.

A.D. 1503, 6 Sept.

Archbishop Warham to William Paston.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

The writer of this letter was William Warham, who was first Bishop of London, and afterwards Archbishop of Canterbury. According to the signature, he was Bishop Elect of London at the time it was written, but we are persuaded that it is a slip of the pen. He was elected Bishop of London in 1502, and was consecrated on the 5th October; but it is clear from the preceding No. that Sir John Paston was alive as late as the beginning of February 1503. In the year 1503, however, Warham was translated to Canterbury. The bull for his translation was issued on the 29th November 1503, but doubtless he was elected some time before; and it is quite intelligible how, being actually Bishop of London, he should have written "Elect of London" in place of "Elect of Canterbury." Moreover, the allusion to the business of the administration agrees entirely with this supposition.

To my cousyn Master William Paston.

COUSYN PASTON, I recommaunde me unto you, and have received your letter, by the which I have undrestand of the deth of my cousyn your fadre, whose soule Jesu assoile. I wol counsaile and exhorte you to take it as wel and as paciently as ye can, seeyng that we al be mortal and borne to dey. And where as ye desire to have a letter *ad colligendum*, after myne advise ye shal doo wel to be here with me at Michaelmas next commyng, and at your then commyng I shalbe glad to doo you the best confort and helpe that I can; counsailing that ye in the meane tyme doo not entremedyll in any wise with th'admynystring of any parte of your faders goodes, nor with the receiving of his debtes, for divers causes, as at your comyng hudre ye shal knowe more.

The meane season, loke that ye be of as confortable chere as ye can, exhorting my lady, your modre in lawe,[1] to be in like wise, to whom I pray you to have me recommendyd. Thus fare ye hertily wel.

From London, the vjth day of Septembre.

Your, William, Electe of London.

[1] Agnes, widow of John Hervey, Esq. of Thurley, Beds, &c.—See preliminary note to Letter 939.

951.

A.D. 1503, or later?
John Kendal to [William Paston?]

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

If this petition was addressed to any member of the Paston family, I should think it must have been William Paston, the son of the later Sir John. That would make the date at least as late as the year 1503, when his father died. If it was either of the two Sir Johns, "my master your father" would be John Paston, Esquire, who died in 1466. But Nicholas Pickering of Filby is said to have been buried in the steeple of Filby church in the year 1466, and it is evident that "my master your father" survived him more than nine years.

Edmund Norman, whose executors are here spoken of, died as far back as 1444. Blomefield says he was seised of two parts of the maner of Filby, but does not mention him as being also owner of two parts of Holm Hale. The two parts of Filby were afterwards held in trust by Sir John Fastolf; but William Pickering and Cecily, his wife, were lords of the whole manor and settled it on John Paston who released it to Nicholas Pickering in 1450.—(Blomefield, xi. 218, 221.)

YOUR pore servaunt and bedeman, John Kendale, be secheth your good and gracious masterschepp, at the reverence of God and in the wey of charyte, to remembre that my maister your fader, on whos soule God have mercy, had fro me x. acres of free londe that I bout of the executours of Nicholas Pekeryng of Filby for xx. marc paid on j. day, to pay to executours of Edmonde Norman for purchase of ij. partes of Holm Halle, somtyme Edmonde Norman.

Also my seide maister, your fader, had fro John Kendale the croppe of the seide x. acres londe, sowen with barly and peson, wherof v. acres were weel somerlayde[1] to the seid barly, the whiche croppe the seide John Kendale schulde a made worth to hym iiij*li.* xiij*s.* iiij*d.*, althow ther had be but xx. quarteres barly growyng on viij. acres and half of londe, that is to seyn up on an acre ij. quarter, iiij. busshelz, and the half acre in avayle, besyde j. acre and an half of peson, for the seide John Kendale solde his malt at Ormesby mad of the barly growyng the same yer that the foreseid croppe was

[1] Kept fallow for some time previous to sowing.

taken fro hym, for iiij*s.* viij*d.* a quartere; and so he myght a solde the same and meche more if he had had it.

Also my seid maister, your fader, hath caused the foreseid John Kendale to a foreborne the ferme of the seide x. acres of londe be the space of ix. yer, be the yer xvj*s.* & viij*d.*, that is, the ferme of j. acre xx*d.*, wherof the somme conteyneth vij*li.* x*s.* beside j. yer receyved of Hagh[1]

952.

A.D. 1504, 10 Dec.—Abstract.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

Receipt given by Thomas Bradbury, alderman of London, to William Paston, Esq. of Norfolk, 10th Dec. 1504, for £5 in full payment of half a year's rent.

953.

A.D. 1506, 17 Jan.
William Makefyrr to Darcy and Alyngton.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

This letter gives an account of the meeting of Henry VII. and Philip, King of Castile, near Windsor, during the time when the latter was detained in England in the beginning of the year 1506. It is well known how after setting out from the Low Countries to take possession of his kingdom of Castile, Philip met with a storm, and was driven to land on our coast, and how, on hearing of it, Henry invited him to visit him at his Court, where he staid for some time while the damage done to his fleet was being repaired.

To the ryght worschypfull Master Roger Darsy and Master Gylys Alyngton, beyng at the Jeorge, in Lumberd Strett, be thys delyveryd in hast.

RYGHT worschypfull masters, I recomend me un to you, certyfying you that the Kynges Grace and the Kyng of Castyle mett this day at thre of the cloke, apon Cleworth Greyn, ij. mylle

[1] Here the MS. ends abruptly.

owt of Wyndesower, and ther the Kyng reseyvyd hym in the goodlyest maner that ever I sawe, and ech of them enbracyd oder in armys.

To schew you the Kynges aparell of Yngland, thus it was:—hys hors of bay, trappyd with nedyll warke; a gown of purpuyr velvyt, a cheyn with a joerge of dyamondes, and a hood of purpuyr velvyt, whych he put not of at the mettyng of the seyd Kyng of Castylle; hys hatt and hys bonett he avalyd, and the Kyng of Castylle in cas lyke. And the Kyng of Castyll rod apon [a] sorellyd hoby, whych the Kyng gave un to hym; hys apparell was all blak, a gown of blak velvytt, a blak hood, a blak hatt, and hys hors harnes of blake velvytt.

To schew you of the Kynges company, my Lord Harry of Stafforth [1] rod in a gown of cloth of tuyssew, tukkyd, furryd with sabulles, a hatt of goldsmyth worke, and full of stons, dyamondes, and rubys, rydyng apon a sorellyd courser bardyd with a bayrd of goldsmythes wark, with rosys and draguns red.

And my Lord Markas [2] rydyng apon a bald sorelyd hors, with a deyp trapper full of long tassels of gold of Venys, and apon the crowper of hys hors a whytt fedyr, with a cott apon hys bak, the body goldsmyths wark, the slevys of cremysyne velvyt, with letters of gold.

My Lord of Kent apon a sorelyd hors, bald, the harnes of Venys gold, with a deyp frynges of half zerd of lengh. My Lord of Kent cott was on barr of cloth of gold, an oder of cremysyn velvyt, pyrlyd with a demy manche cut of by the elbowe. Thyes be the lords that bare the bruyt.

[1] Henry, Earl of Stafford, eldest son and heir of Edward Stafford, Duke of Buckingham, who was attainted and beheaded in 1521.

[2] Thomas Grey, Marquis of Dorset, was the son of Thomas, the late Marquis, who was the son of Elizabeth, Queen of Edward IV. by her first husband, Sir John Grey of Groby. This nobleman in the next reign became Lord of the Marches between England and Scotland, which he stoutly kept and boldly maintained. He died in 1530, 22 Hen. VIII.—F.

[3] George Gray, Earl of Kent, was a true soldier to, and a favourite of Henry, and survived this pageant a very short time, dying within the year.—F.

Sir Hew Waghan apon a bay hors trappyd with cremysyn velvyt full of gylt bels, a gown of blak velvyt, and a cheyn of gold, bawdryk wys, worth v. hondreth pownd.

Thys be the sperys: Master Sant John apon a blak hors, withh arnes of cloth of gold with tasselles of plunkytt and whytt, a cott of plunkytt and whytt, the body of goldsmyths werk, the s[l]evys full of spanguls.

John Carr and William Parr cotts lyke, the horsys gray, of Parr trappyd with cremysyn velvyt with tasselles of gold, and bels gylt. Carr hors bay with an Almayn harnes of sylver, an ynch brod of betyn sylver, both the cottes of goldsmythes wark the bodys, the slevys on stryp of syllver, the oder gylt.

Edward Nevell apon a gray hors trappyd with blak velveyt full of small belles, hys cott the on half of greyn velvyt, the oder of whytt cloth of gold; thyse to the rutters of the spers, with oder dyvers well appontyd.

On the Kyng of Castylles party, the Lord Chamberlayn cheyff, I can not tell hys name as yett; hys apparell was sad, and so was all the resydeu of hys company with clokes of sad tawnye blake, gardyd, sum with velvyt and sum with sarsnyt, not passyng a dosyn in nowmber. It is sayd ther is many by hynd, wych cums with the Queyn of Castyll, wych schall cum apon Teyusday.

When the Kyng rod forth to Wyndesouer Castyle, the Kyng rode apon the ryght hand the Kynges of Castylle, how be it the Kynges Grace offeryd hym to take hym apon the ryght hand, the whych he refussyd. And at the lyghtyng the Kyng of Castylle was of hys hors a good space or owr Kyng was a lyght; and then the Kynges Grace offeryd to take hym by the arm, the whych he wold not, bot toke the Kyng by the arme, and so went to the Kynges of Castylle chamber, whych is the rychestly hangyd that ever I sawe; vij. chambers to geder hangyd with cloth of arras wroght with gold as thyk as cowd be; and as for iij. beds of astate, no kyng Crystyned can schew sych iij.

Thys is as fer as I can schew you of this day, and when I can know mor, ye schall have knowlege.

From Wyndesouer this Saterday, at v. of the cloke.

By yours,

WILLIAM MAKEFYRR.

954.

AN INVENTORY.

[From Add. Charter 17,255, B.M.]

This inventory might perhaps have been inserted in the year 1474, after the death of James Gloys, with whose name it begins. (See No. 746.) The year in which it was drawn up is, however, by no means certain, as the articles seem to have belonged to many different owners; and it may be conveniently referred to here at the end of our collection.

James Gloys, j. dongge,[1] . . .	iij*s.*	
Item, a coverlete, ...	v*s.*	
Item, ij. blankettes, ...	vj*s.*	viij*d.*
Item, ij. pare of shettes, . . .	x*s.*	
Item, a sellore,[2]		xij*d.*
Item, a rosour, ...		viij*d.*
Item, v. shertes, ...	viij*s.*	
Item, j. roset cape, ...		iiijd.
Item, iiij. gownes, ...	xxvj*s.*	viij*d.*
Item, a curt baron, ...		xl*d.*
Item, iij. gyrdylles, ...		vj*d.*
Item, iij. payre of hossen, . .	vj*s.*	
Item, j. song boke, pris . . .		xx*d.*
Item, j. dowbelet of fustian, . .	iij*s.*	iiij*d.*
Item, j. grene cotte, . . .	ij*s.*	
Item, ij. payre schone, . . .		xiiij*d.*
Item, j. box with j. porse of cloth of gold,		xl*d.*
Item, j. crosse silver, . . .		xl*d.*
Item, j. sawtere, ...	vj*s.*	viij*d.*
Item, j. premere, ...	ij*s.*	
Item, j. boke of statutis, . . .		xl*d.*
Item, j. boke of *vitas Patrum*, . .	ij*s.*	
Item, j. purs in the bedstraw with .	xx*s.*	

[1] A mattress. [2] A bed canopy.

Item, j. boke of xij. chapetyrs of Lynccoln, and a boke of safistre,[1] . . xs.
Item, vj. steyned paperis, . . . xij*d.*
Item, ij. scochenes, ... viij*d.*
Item, a swerd, pris . . . . vjs. viij*d.*
Item, a towayle, ... xd.
Item, a *supersedyas* of Gloys, Osborn and Snallewell. . . . .
Item, a bleu gown of William Tavernerys, xs.
Item, a blake cloke, ... vjs.
Item, a bottell for wine of a potell, . xij*d.*
Item, a peyre of tabille of horne and box, xvj*d.*
Item, a confessionall, . . . ijs.

Herre Boll, a dongge, . . . xl*d.*
Item, a traunsom, ... ijs.
Item, a paire of schettis, . . . iiijs.
Item, a blanket, ... ijs.
Item, a coverlet, ... ijs.
Item, a pillow of down, . . . xij*d.*
Item, ij. curteynes, ... ijs.
Item, gownes, ... xs.
Item, a dowblet of fostian, . . xl*d.*
Item, iij. schertes, ... vs.
Item, a towayle, ... viij*d.*
Item, a blake hod, ... ijs.
Item, ij. cofforys stuffet, . . . ijs.
Unde, j. was sprwys chyst with . xxs.
Item, j. clasp of sylver, . . . xij*d.*
Item, of payse money, . . . xij*d.*
Item, ix. ferthynges, ... ij*d. ob*
Item, a lytyll chyst, ... vj*d.*
Item, ij. pors with, ... ijs. vij*d. ob.*
Item, iiij. rynges, ... iijs.
Item, a box with bedys, qwere of ij. payre of jett, with Paternosterys of corall, xl*d.*
Item, a poyre of jett, pris . . . xij*d.*
Item, v. payre of box, . . . xd.
Item, a payre of ambre, . . . xviij*d.*

[1] Sophistry, *i.e.* dialectics.

Item, a purs of welwet, . . . viij*d.*
Item, iij. payre of knyffes, . . . x*d.*
Item, a payr of hernishede knyffes, . xij*d.*
Item, v. napettes, ... v*d.*
Item, iij. hedkercheffes, pris . . xij*d.*
Item, a box with sylke and perryll, . iij*s.*
Item, a powche of rosset damaske, . xx*d.*
Item, a payre of gold weghtes in a case, ij*s.*
Item, a broch of sylver with a crown, xvj*d.*
Item, a payre of beddes of segamore, iiij*d.*
Item, a box of tene with sylver wire.
Item, iij. new gyrdyll, pris . . ix*d.*

Item, in the second coffer was bokes, pris xvj*d.*
Item, a boke of Seynt Thomas *de Veritatibus*, pris . . . . xs.
Item, a red boke with Huguccio and Papie, xxs.
Item, iij. bokes of soffistre, . . xx*d.*
Item, maney other smale bokes, . xs.
Item, iij. cappis, ... x*d.*
Item, a surplice, ... xl*d.*
Item, iij. letterys of pardon, . . xs.
Item, a stevynyd[1] clothe, a crucifix, . xx*d.*
Item, a payre of dowbyll glovys, furredde with lambe, ... vj*d.*
Item, ij. payr of hosson, . . . vs.
Item, a combe of veveri,[2] . . . vj*d.*

John Osborn, a cott of rosset, pris . iij*s.* iiij*d.*
Item, a stomaucher of a zerd of gode new hollond clothe, ... x*d.*
Item, iiij. payre of sokkes, pris . . viij*d.*
Item, ij. payre of lyncloys, . . viij*d.*
Item, ij. payre of hossen, . . iiij*s.*
Item, a payre of schone, . . vij*d.*
Item, a payre schettes, . . . iiij*s.*
Item, iij. gyrdyll, ... ix*d.*

Jamus Halmon, iiij. schettes. . . xs.
Item, ij. schertis and a quarter of lynclothe, ij*s.* vj*d.*

[1] Parti-coloured. [2] Ivory.

Item, a pelow bere, ... vj*d.*
Item, ij. payre of sockes, . . . iij*d.*
Item, a gown furret with blake lom, . xs.
Item, a payre of cremessen hossen, . iij*s.*
Item, a payre spores, a pare of glovis, xvj*d.*
Item, iij. gyrdyll, ... ix*d.*
Item, a stomaker of lenclothe, . . viij*d.*
Item, a payre of shone, . . . vij*d.*
Item, staffe, pris . . . . iiij*d.*
Item, a sakke, ... viij*d.*

Syngleton, a payr of bottes and a parre of sporis, ... iij*s.* iiij*d.*
Item, a sadyll, a paytrell and a brydoll and ij. gerthis, ... xs.
Item, a payre of dowbelet slevys of blake, } iij*s.*
Item, a payre of slevys of rosset, }
Item, a payr of stokes of fustian, . [viij*d.*][1]
Item, a pare of schone, . . . vij*d.*
Item, a schyrt, ... xx*d.*
Item, a purs with . . . . ij*s.*
Item, a gyrdyll, a payre of patanys, . iiij*d.*
Item, a dagar knyffe, pris . . . iiij*d.*

Katryn Wilton, a donge . . . iij*s.* iiij*d.*
Item, a coverlet, ... iij*s.* iiij*d.*
Item, a blanket, ... iij*s.*
Item, a payr of shettes, . . . iiij*s.*
Item, a pelow of doun, . . . xij*d.*
Item, a payre of new hosson, . . viij*d.*
Item, a gown and a kertyll, . . vj*s.* viij*d.*
Item, a cors harnesshet with blake, pris xx*d.*
Item, a hod, ... iij*s.* iiij*d.*
Item, a kercher of lawn, pris . . xx*d.*
Item, ij. kercher of therd, . . xij*d.*
Item, a payre off bedys of ambre, . xx*d.*
Item, a new canvasse.

Jane Belton, a blanket, . . . iij*s.* iiij*d.*

[1] Struck through with the pen.

Item, a shette, ... ij*s.*
Item, a kerchey therd, and ther in was v*j s.* viij*d.* of gold.
Item, a payre of beydys of jette with Patter nosteris of corall, pris . xx*d.*
Item, a payre of turnerys of lawn, . xx*d.*
Item, a yerd of lynclothe, . . viij*d.*
Item, a payre of hossen, . . . viij*d.*
Item, a smoke, ... xx*d.*
Item, a kercher of thred, . . . viij*d.*

Symond Houston, a payre of bottes, a payre of sporis, . . . iiij*s.*

Purrey, a blw gown, . . . viij*s.*
Item, a bridull and a feterloke, . . xvj*d.*
Item, a payr of hossen, a payr of schon, ij*s.* vij*d.*
Item, a pare of furred glovys.

Frere John Alderiche, ij. quaris of prayeris. Item, a powtenere with a payre of bedys of jette. Item, a scapelerey with an hodde, . vj*s.* viij*d.*

John Keduray, a payre of lynclothys, j. gown of blw, ... vj*s.* viij*d.*
Item, a payre of hossen, . . . xx*d.*
Item, a payre of schone, . . . vij*d.*
Item, a payre of glovys and a hatt, . xij*d.*

Simond Sadiller, a payre of sporis, . xij*d.*
Item, a knyff hernyshid with sylver, . xij*d.*

Robert Fen, a gown, . . . vj*s.*
Item, a cappe, ... iiij*d.*
Item, a peyre of hossen, . . . xvj*d.*
Item, a chart (?), pris . . . xvj*d.*

Richard Charlys, a peyr of hossen, . xvj*d.*
Item, a dager, ... xvj*d.*
Item, a gyrdyll, ... ij*d.*

Item, a cappe of rosset, . . . iiij*d.*

Jhon Faster, a horne, . . . viij*d.*

John Judde, a chert, pris . . xvj*d.*
Item, a peyr of bedys of jett, . . viij*d.*

William Bemond, a custell, pris . xvj*d.*
Item, a perre of bottes, pris . . ij*s.*
Item, a peyre of glovys of otter.

Water Wynter, a shert, . . . xij*d.*
A dager, ... xij*d.*
A purs with . . . . . x*d.*

Sander Koke, a mourey gown, . . vj*s.*
Item, a cotte of moster develers,[1] . xl*d.*
Item, a blanket, ... iij*s.*
Item, a peyre of shettes, . . . iiij*s.*
Item, iij. peyr of shoys, . . . xx*d.*
Item, a peyr of sokkes, . . . ij*d.*
Item, a hatt, ... xij*d.*
Item, a peyr of patanys, a cappe of violet, } xij*d.*
Item, iij. gyrdyll, and a cerchey [*kerchief*], }
Item, ij. of[2] of hossen, pris . . iij*s.*

Snallewell, a schet, pris . . . xx*d.*
Item, ij. shurtes, a peyr ofe lynclothis, xx*d.*
Item, ij. dowbelettes, pris . . xl*d.*
Item, iij. gyrdyll, ij. cappes, . . xv*d.*
Item, ij. peyr of hossen, . . . xl*d.*
Item, a lyneng to a gown, . . xx*d.*
Item, an hodde, ... xl*d.*

John Bube (?), ane hatt, pris . . x*d.*
Item, a bowe, pris . . . . vj*d.*
Item, a peyr of bottes, . . . xvj*d.*
Item, a purs with . . . . iiij*d.*
Item, a cappe, ... iiij*d.*

Herry Gunnold, tablys and stolys, pris v*s.*

[1] Grey woollen cloth. [2] So in MS.

955—958.

Abstracts.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

The following letters are probably all of the time of Henry VII. They are all addressed to a Mr. William Paston, but perhaps not all to the same person. The first two are apparently to William Paston, the brother of the two Sir Johns. The third is doubtful. The last may be to the son of the second Sir John.

955.—John Wryght to Master William Paston at Hynnyngham.—Has received from him a bill with 3*s.* 6*d.*, part payment of the cotton russet. "The rest we shall drink when ye come to London." Does not understand Paston's order for other 9 yards. Does he wish frieze, cotton or plain blanket?—London, St. Catherine's Even.

956.—John Breton of Hadley to Master William Paston.—Desires him to be good master to the bearer, "a poor kinsman of mine," to whom my lord [1] has written sharply, that he may come before my lord for his answer.

957.—Petyr Marham to his master, William Pastun.—Desires his advice, as Robert Gaunley, sometime his 'prentice, has taken an action against him at the common law.

958.—William Ocley to Master William Paston.—Has spoken with young Wyndam in Master Digby's presence. He was grateful to Paston for his loving mind towards him, and said he would receive "the two riall" himself, and buy no new gear till he knew the King's pleasure touching his pardon.—London, 3 Sept.

[1] The Earl of Oxford.

APPENDIX.

This Appendix consists of three parts. In the first will be found a few letters and papers connected with the Paston family, which were either discovered too late for insertion in their proper places, or had been accidentally omitted. Most of these were found in the Bodleian Library at Oxford by my friend Mr. W. H. Turner. The second part contains transcripts of the wills of members of the Paston family from the Principal Registry at Somerset House. The third has been added since the other two were in type, in consequence of a discovery made in a private library, just before the Index had gone to press.

APPENDIX.

Part I.

959.

A.D. 1425, 24 Sept.—ABSTRACT.

[From a Bodl. MS.]

Bill witnessing a concord made 24 Sept. 4 Hen. VI. between John Kertelyng, clerk, general attorney of Sir John Fastolf, on the one part, and Richard Boson, Esq., on the other, viz.: That Fastolf shall have in fee-simple the manor of the said Richard in Castre called Bosons of the gift of the said Richard before Easter next, and that the said Richard shall have Fastolf's manor in Titeleshale called Peekhalle, in fee-simple, of the gift of Fastolf, paying to Fastolf £60 within the next four years.

960.

A.D. 1426, 1 Dec.—ABSTRACT.

[From a Bodl. MS.]

JOHN PASTON *alias* WORTES.

Draft writ to the Sheriff of Norwich to attach and bring before the Council John Paston *alias* Wortes and others for violation of the statutes of Provisors 25 Edw. III. and 16 Ric. II., on the complaint of John Brundale, prior of Bromholm that although he, Brundale, was canonically elected prior, the said Paston or Wortes had crossed the sea without royal license, obtained a provision of the said priory in the Court of Rome, and got himself installed as prior, and the other expelled. Also the said John Paston or Wortes, and John Gees, a Carmelite friar of

Norwich, Edmund Alderford, late of Norwich, clerk, Barth. Waryn, parson of Trunche, William Cuttyng of Worsted, clerk, John Gees of Crowemer, merchant, and Ralph Gunton of Norwich, scrivener, received the said instruments at Bakton, and put them into execution.—Dated 1 Dec.

ii. On the back of the preceding is another draft writ of the same date against the same parties for endeavouring to draw the prior out of the kingdom by a suit in the Court of Rome.

The paper is endorsed—"S. (?) Billæ vis. Veneris prox. post diem antedictum (?) Anno II. vj. vto, et non necessario festinant'. Iterum supervidendum."

Endorsed in a later hand—"Towchynge Sir John Fastolffes landes in Norffolk and Surrye."

961.

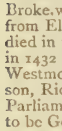
A.D. 1432-40.

John Willoughby to Lord Beaumont.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

The writer of this letter was the father of Robert, first Lord Willoughby de Broke, who afterwards laid claim to the barony of Latimer, as being descended from Elizabeth, sister and sole heir of John Nevill, fifth Lord Latimer, who died in 1430. He was, however, unsuccessful, as the title had been revived in 1432 by a writ of summons to George Nevill, a son of Ralph, first Earl of Westmorland. This George died in 1469, and was succeeded by his grandson, Richard Neville, then an infant of two years old, who had summons to Parliament as Lord Latimer in 1492. The Lord Latimer here spoken of seems to be George Nevill, and it is probable that the letter was written between 1432 and 1440, as John, Lord Beaumont, was created Viscount in the latter year, while he is not so addressed here.

To my ryght noble and ryght [dra]dde lord, my Lord Beaumont.



YGHT wursshipfull sire, my ryghte noble, and ryghte dradde lorde, after dyw recommendacion to yowr reverens, please hit yow to know that yowr lordesship luste to empointe me to abyde yowr noble avys touching the landis of Latemer, which my Lorde Latemer holdith ate this day. My lord, I muste, and owe of dywte, abyde yowre empoyntement, and shall; how be hit I have be confortid to complaine me to my lordis and yow of the grete wronge that I have. But, sir, y have soe verray truste one yowre lordesship that I refuse all counsaille,

abyding yowre empointemente and rewell, as my diwte is to doo; byseching yow, my lord, to remembre yow and compasse of yowre servaunt, and that ye lust of yowr grace to comyne with my Lord of Salisbury, and to fele him in the mater, and as ye fele him, hit please yowre lordesship I may have knowlege; and whate yowre pore bedman may do to yowre plesire, I ame redy ate yowre comaundement ate all howris, which knowith God, Hoe have yow, my ryghte noble lord, in His blessid gouvernauns.

Write ate Broke, the v. day of Marche.

Your pore bedman and servant,

JOHN WYLUGHBY.

962.

A.D. 1442, 15 April.—ABSTRACT.

[From a Bodl. MS.]

JOHN AND MARGARET PASTON.

Indenture tripartite, whereby Sir Simon Felbrigge, Oliver Groos, Esq., and William Paston, feoffees of Robert Mauteby, Esq., deceased, at the request of Margaret, wife of John Paston, daughter and heir of John Mauteby, son and heir of said Robert, and in consideration that the said John Paston and Margaret now have issue a son, John, whereby John Paston the father is, by the law of England, for term of his life of the inheritance of his said wife, —— grant and confirm to the said John Paston the manors of Mauteby, Sparham, Basyngham, Westbekham, Matelask, and Briston, the manor of Salle called Kirkehalle, and the manor called Fleghalle in Wynterton, Somerton, Ormesby, Martham, Horseye, Waxstonesham, and Pallyng, and 100*s.* rent in Castre by Norwich and Merkeshale, Norfolk; and the manor of Freton in Suffolk; with certain reversions on the death of Eleanor, wife of Thomas Chambre, Esq., formerly wife of the said Robert Mauteby, Margery, wife of Ralph Garneys, Esq., mother of the said Margaret, formerly wife of John Mauteby, and of Edward Mauteby, Esq., and Thomas Mauteby, Esq., sons of the said Robert. To hold to the said John Paston, with remainder to Margaret and the heirs of her body; with contingent remainders in tail to Edw. Mauteby, Thomas Mauteby, &c.

Dated Mauteby, 15 April, 20 Hen. VI.

963.

A.D. 1443, 17 Oct.—Abstract.

[From the Chancery Roll of the Duchy of Lancaster, 22 Hen. VI., Y. 2 c., No. 79.]

LAND IN PASTON.

Warrant to Sir Roger Frenles, Knight, Chief Steward of the Duchy lands in Norfolk and other counties, and Sir Thomas Tudenham, particular Steward of the lordship and manor of Gymyngham, to demise (*dimittere et tradere*) to the undertenants (*bassis tenentibus*) specified in an act of Parliament, certain charter-hold land in Paston and Edithorp granted to the King by William Paston, Robert Clere, and Edmund Clere in exchange for certain parcels of copyhold land, in accordance with an act of the last Parliament holden at Westminster. The copyhold land granted to them consisted of 36½ acres 9 perches 1½ qr. of a perch and 1 pekke of land, pasture, heath, and marsh, with two houses built on certain parcels thereof, with ¼ of a rood of waste land [not belonging to the Duchy?] in Paston; and it was given in recompense for 36½ acres 26½ perches and half a quarter of a perch, half a "pekke" and one "naylle" of land, pasture, and heath, called "Chartrehold," with two houses built on certain parcels thereof, in Paston and Edithorp, which are to be annexed to the Duchy. These parcels are specified in an inquisition dated 18 May 18 Hen. VI., remaining in the treasury of the Duchy, which was taken by virtue of letters of the Cardinal to Lord Bardolf and others.

17 Oct. 22 Hen. VI.

964.

Before A.D. 1444.

William Paston and William Joye.

[From Douce Charters in Bibl. Bodl., No. 18.

HEC sunt hostilmenta et vutensilia domus, bona et catalla, que Willielmus Paston, in indentura presentibus annexa nominatus, tradidit et dimisit Willielmo Joye in eadem indentura nominato, secundum formam ejusdem indenture, ex communi assensu eorundem Willielmi et Willielmi, per Robertum Gynne, Johannem Albon de Paston et alios

appreciata, assignata et specificata, modo subsequenti, videlicet: tres equi precii quinque marcarum; quatuor vacce, quelibet precii vij*s.* vj*d.*; una juvenca brendyt precii v*s.*; unus tauriculus, precii iiij*s.*; una juvencula dowet precii iij*s.*; due sues, quelibet precii iij*s.* iiij*d.*; tres porculi, quilibet precii xvj*d.*; tres porcelli, quilibet precii xij*d.*; quatuor alii porcelli, quilibet precii viij*d.*; una carecta, precii vj*s.* viij*d.*; apparatus carette, videlicet una sella, unum par des stroppys; duo paria dez trayses, precii ij*s.*; due caruce cum les hokys et stappilles; unum par rotarum; due herpice, precii v*s.*; quatuor paria dez trayses ad aratrum, precii viij*d.*; due furse fimose, precii vj*d.*; una vanga, precii iij*d.*; unus tribulus, precii iij*d.*

Hec sunt blada et alia hostilmenta et utensilia domus, bona et catalla, per predictum Willielmum Paston predicto Willielmo Joye secundum formam dicte indenture similiter dimissa et non appreciata, videlicet: sex quarteria frumenti; xxv. quarteria ordei; viij. quarteria avenarum; quidam tassus pisarum in fine australi antique grangie messuagii predicti, qui est altitudinis iij. virgarum et iij. quarteriorum unius virge, et quidam alius tassus vescarum in boriali fine ejusdem grangie, altitudinis iij. virgarum et j. quarterii unius virge; qui quidem duo tassi fuerunt vesture xij. acrarum et dimidii, et dimidii rode terre; iij. vasa vocata Kelerys; j. Gilyngsat; iiij. stondes pro servitio; j. stonde in coquina; ij. patelle cum ligaminibus ferreis; j. parva patella cum ligamine ferreo; j. magna olla ennea [*ænea*]; alia olla ennea minor; j. parva olla ennea; j. tabula; j. par des trostelles; j. longum hostium jacens in boteria; j. par des trestelles, j. trow, ij. bolles, j. morter, j. thede, j. temse, j. mashsterell, j. tankard cum ligamine ferreo; j. bultyngpoke, j. magna trow pro farina, cista pro farina, j. fleshoke, j. tripes ferreum, j. veru ferreum; j. aunderun, j. par de tongys, j. lach'gres ennua, j. seturis, j. magnum lavacrum pendens, j. kynderkyn, ij. soos leeke, j. par de belwes, j. magnum planke super mensam coquine hargour; iij.

perapsides; iij. disci; iij. sauserys de pewter; iij. perapsides; iij. disci; j. magnus discus, vj. sissorn, iij. ciphi de ligno, j. chayer; duo longa scanna, j. scannum mediocre longitudinis; ij. scanna vocata buffet stoles; ij. bankar; j. gladius, ij. ferra vocata aplates; j. chirne; j. chyrnyng staf; j. curta falx; j. candelabrum ferreum; j. parvum salerium; j. beryngsceppes, unum par dez pepyrquens, ij. uteri, j. cadus cum vergous; j. parva cista in boteria; j. selura supra servisiam; j. metesetell; j. pykforke; iij. longa bordclothis; j. towayll, j. san . . . et j. walet pro autumpno; j. lucerna; ij. vomeri et ij. cultri que ponderant xvij. li. et dim.; j. carectula, Anglice, a carre; j. sunvectorium (?); ij. novi rowintrees et j. curtum lignum in le carthows; ij. veteres bige; j. par rotarum ferratarum; ij. kemell cum hopys ferreis; j. frena, j. pelvis; viij. sacci; iiij. longa ligna fraxinora in pistrina; j. fetyrlok.

In dorso—

Summa catall' infrascriptorum et appreciat', v*li.* 19*s.* 8*d.*

Summa granorum infrascriptorum ultra persas (?) et vesias, iiij*li.* xvij*s.* iij*d.*

Quarterium frumenti ad iiij*s.*, quarterium ordei ij*s.* iij*d.*, et querterium avenarum ad ij*s.*

Item, vestura xij. acrarum et di., et di. rod. pisarum et vescar'.

Item, dicta vestura piseii et vescar. ad ls., lacr' ad iiij*s.* de xij. acr' et di. rod. non lax.

Summa totalis, xiiij*li.* viij*s.*

965.

After A.D. 1444.—John Paston's Petition.

[From Tanner MS. 95, f. 82.]

This is a draft in the handwriting of William Worcester, very illegible from the number of the corrections, and also from the ink being very much faded. Of its date I cannot tell except that it was clearly written in the reign of Henry VI. and after the death of Judge Paston in 1444.

To the Kyng our Soverayn Lord.

LES your Hyghnes of your abundante grace, an consyderacion of the servys and plesure that your Hyghnes knowyth to yow don by William Paston, late one of your judgys, and old servaunt to that nobyll Prinse your fadyr, to graunte

onto John Paston, Esquyer, sonn and heyir of the seyd Wylliam, your lettrys patents under the seel of yowr Duche of Lancastre, being in the keping of Thomas Chesham, aftyr affecte of note folowyng; and he schall pray to God for yow.

Rex, etc. Sciatis, quod de gracia nostra speciali et ex mero motu nostro, ac pro bono et laudabyli servicio quod dilectus et fidelis nobis Willelmus Paston, nuper unus Justiciariorum nostrorum, defunctus, nobis in vita sua inpendydit, consessimus et hac presenti carta nostra confirmavimus, in quantum in nobis est, Johanni Paston armigero, filio et heredi dicti Willelmi, viginti tria mesuagia, quingintas triginta et iiij. acras pasture, bruere et marissy in villis de Paston, Edythorp, et Bakton, in comitatu nostro Norff. quas diversi tenentes nostri ibidem de nobis separatim native tenent ad voluntatem nostram per virgam sive copiam et per serta redditus et servissia, nativa annualia inde nobis reddend., que ad valorem novem librarum annuatim exeunt vel infra. Concessimus eciam eidem Johanni curiam lete, seu visus ranciplegii nostri, in villis de Paston et Edithorp predictis, que est annui valoris viij. solidorum per estimacionem; ad quatuor libratas, quatuor solidatas et octo denariatas redditus. Redditum octo boschellorum avenarum et trium caponum cum pertinentiis in villis predictis, ac in villis Wytton et Easewyk in comitatu predicto, percipiendum anuatim de omnibus et singulis liberys tenentibus nostris ibidem pro tenementis suis qui de nobis separatim tenent in eisdem villis, una cum fidelitatibus et aliis serviciis eorundem tenentium et eorum cujuslibet, de, seu pro, tenementis illis et eorum qualibet parcella nobis debitis sive pertinentibus. Concessimus etiam eidem Johanni et heredibus suis officium parcarie ac costidie[1] parci nostri de Grymygham in com. nostro predicto, una cum proficuo agistamenti bestiarum ejusdem parci pro vadiis suis pro officio predicto annuatim percipiend: salvis no[bis?] et hodierna

[1] *Sic, pro* custodiæ.

sufficienti pastura ferarum nostrarum ibidem ut tempore nostro prius usitatum fuit; quod quidem proficuum agistamenti ad valorem x. marcarum extendit per annum. Habenda, tenenda et percipienda predicta messuagia terram, pasturam, brueram, mariscum, curiam lete, et visus franciplegii, redditus, et servissia, officium et agistament' proficu' cum pertinentiis, prefato Johanni et heredibus suis de nobis et heredibus nostris, per fidelitatem et redditum unius rose rubie ad Festum Nativitatis Sancti Johannis Baptiste annuatim nobis solvendum, si petatur, pro omnibus serviciis, exaccionibus et demandis. Eo quod messuagia, terra, pastura, bruera, mariscus, curia lete, redditus, servicia predicta, officium et agistament' profic', valorem supra specificatum [non] excedant, vel valorem illum non attingant, aut aliquo actu, restriccione seu mandato facto, edito aut proviso non obstante. Volumus etiam et assignavimus quod omnes illi qui per nos seu ad usum nostrum, jus, titulum, seu statum in premissis, seu aliquo premissorum habuerunt seu habent, nobis antehac non relaxatum, jus, titulum et statum illa prefato Johanni et heredibus suis dimittent et relaxent. In cujus . . .

966.

A.D. 1447, 21, 26 Oct.—Abstracts.

[From MSS. Hickling, 130, 140, in Magd. Coll., Oxf.]

21 Oct., at London.—Letter from Fastolf to Thomas Howys and John Grene, desiring them to procure information about one Robert Eccles, cousin and heir to John Eccles, whom the counsel for the prior of Hickling propose to call to give evidence about the rent of 25 marks.

1447, [26 Oct.] "Thursday byfore S. Symond and Jude," 26 Hen. VI. at Castre. Long letter from Thomas Howys in reply to the preceding, with the results of searches made in the Bishop's registry for wills of the Eccles family, with particulars about various members of the family, &c.

[For these abstracts I am indebted to Mr. Macray, and also for those immediately following, which are from the same source.]

967.

Abstracts.

[From MSS. in Magd. Coll., Oxf.]

The Prior of Hickling.

Hickling 71.

[14 . .] At Westminster.

Letter [on paper, in English] *from two counsel, William Wangeford and William Jenney*, to Sir John Fastolf, giving their opinion on his claim against the prior of Hickling. Sir John cannot recover the £20 forfeit, because the condition of the obligation only extended to the heirs of Sir Hugh Clifford, and not to his assigns, and Sir John is only an assign; but the rent of 25 marks is sure to him, and he can recover it, if denied by the prior, by process of law; they will consult with justices and serjeants whether he can recover it by distraint.

Hickling 74.

[14 . .] Friday in the 2nd week after Easter at Lenne.

Letter, [in English, on paper] *from Henry Notyngham* to Sir Henry Barton, Alderman of London. Has counselled with Paston, and finds him more friendly and ready to help in Barton's matter than ever before; supposes that the cause is, that the prior that was obstinate is dead, and another appointed, who Paston trusts will be more easy to stir. Desires that Paston may be thanked. Sends a letter which he desires "a child of zours" may carry to Mistress Jenkin Leventhorpe the younger; and ask at my lord's inn of Doreham or of Ratclyff or some other which he may think best, if he (*i.e.* my Lord of Durham) shall be at this Parliament. Send to Thomelin Grys, spicer at Norwich, some "loder," as soon as he can goodly buy it, which comes each week to Rossamez Inn in St. Laurence's Lane.

Hickling 75.

[14 . .] 14 Apr., At Norwich.

Letter, [in English, on paper] from *H*[*enry*] *Notyngham* to Sir Henry Barton, alderman of London. Delivered Paston the copy of the deeds; shewed his letter to the prior and convent, but gained nothing; they said they would please Barton full fain, but all their counsel are full against their binding themselves by any such confirmation; they were bound to the former owner and his heirs, but not to his assigns. Advises him to get good counsel, and thinks nothing can be done unless he gets Paston's assent and grant to help the matter.

Hickling 89.

[1450 *or* 1451 ?] 18 Aug. Norwich.

Letter [in English, on paper] *from* "*W.* [*Hart*], *Bisshope of Norwich*," to Sir John Fastolf. Has put himself greatly in his

devoir to put an end to the controversy between Fastolf and the house of Hykelyng, and has been so importunate that Lord Scales has advised him not to meddle in the matter, because he is taken as a suspect person; if he could do him more profit, he would not spare labour or cost, on account of Fastolf's towardness and gentleness to condescend unto right and reasonable mean, the which he conceives not in the other party. Had hoped his good and devout purpose towards the place of St. Bennet's would have grown to some good conclusion; was there the Sunday before St. Laurence's Day, and greatly rejoiced at such work and cost as he has done there. Heartily desires him to come here to the air of his natural birth, where he will find my Lord of Norfolk and such attendance as the Bishop and other gentles of the country may do, ready unto him at all times; his coming would be to his health and heart's ease, and the cause of much peace in the country.

Small seal, fastened *on* the letter; a stag; a straw round it.

Hickling 104.

[ ]

Letter, [in English, on paper] from *Lord Scales* to Sir John Fastolf, asking him to withdraw an outlawry which has been issued against John Dowebegyng, servant of the former, for a debt of £100 due to Fastolf by Thomas Danyell, Esq., for which Dowebegyng had become bound.

Signed by Lord Scales, who adds a postscript in his own hand that Fastolf has been as faithful and kind to him since he came into England as he was in France, and that there is no one of his estate for whom he would do so much.

Small seal, on the paper, with a straw round it.

968.

A.D. 1455, 10 July.

Sir J. Fastolf to John Paston.

[From a modern copy by Gough in Bodl. Library.]

This letter was evidently written in the year 1455, as appears by the reference to the Parliament and to the intended journey of Sir John Fastolf up to London (see No. 252).

To the worshypfull and my ryght welle belovyd cosyn, John Paston.

WORSHYPFULL and ryghte welbelovyd cosyn, I comaund me to you. Please you to wete that the pryour and convent of Norwych

have wyth holden certeyn rent for londes that they holden of me wythynne my maner of Harlyston, and the ij. tapers of wax of ij*lb.* wyghte by the space of xviij. yeers that mountyth . . . . . xxj*s.* valued in money; and the lordes of the seyd maner beying before me, and also y yn my tyme have be seisid and possessed of the sayd rent. Praying you to speek wyth the pryour, recomaundyng me unto hym, and that ye lyke to meave hym to make me payment, as hys dewtee ys, so as y have no cause to stirre further, and to doo as justice requyryth. He holdyth xxx. acres land or more by the sayd rent, and yhyt ought to pay me othyr rents more by myne evidents of more ade. Y pray you, cosyn, that y may speke wyth you or y ryde, and that on Thrysday by the farthyst, and then y shall tell you tydyngs off the Parlement, and that ye fayle not, as my trus ys yn you. Y pray God have you yn Hys governance.

Wreten at Castre, the x. day of Julle.

Your cosyn,

JOHN FASTOLFE.

969.

Before A.D. 1456.

LORD CROMWELL TO JOHN PASTON.

[From Fenn, ii. 290.]

This letter was attributed by Fenn to Humphrey Bourchier, who was created Lord Cromwell in the first year of Edward IV., and being accordingly placed by him in that reign, it was accidentally overlooked by me in its proper place. The signature, of which Fenn gives a facsimile, is not that of Humphrey Bourchier, Lord Cromwell, but of Ralph, Lord Cromwell, who died on the 4th January 1456.

To my right trusty ffrend, John Paston, Squier.

TRUSTY and welbeloved frend, I grete you wele. And for as much as hit is don me to understande that there is a greet straungenesse betwix my right trusty frend John Radcliff and you, withoute any matier or cause of sub-

staunce, as I am lerned; wherfore, in as much as I love you wele bothe, I am not content hit shulde so be.

Praying you hertly to forbere the said straungenesse on your partie to suche tyme as I speke with you next my self, leting you wite I have wreten to him to do the same; and that ye faile not herof, as I may do any thing for you herafter. And our Lorde have you in His keping.

Wretin at London, the x. day of Fevrier.

CROMWELL.

970.

A.D. 1459? [22] Aug.
WILLIAM JENNEY TO JOHN PASTON.

[From Fenn, iv. 38.]

This letter is referred by Fenn to the beginning of Edward IV's reign, but on a careful examination I think it must be earlier, as William Jenney's proceedings, even in the first year of Edward IV., were by no means friendly to John Paston. The Lord Scales here mentioned must therefore be the Lord Scales of Henry VI.'s time, who was murdered in July 1460, and the letter, having been written in August, cannot be later than 1459. In that year, as will be seen by Letter 325, John Paston's eldest son had already begun active life, and I am inclined to think that it is the precise year in which the present letter was written. John Paston, the second, was at that time not more than nineteen years of age, and we hear nothing of his doings earlier. The manor of Sporle was inherited by John Paston, Senior, from his father the judge.

To my worshipful and right gode mayster, John Paston, Squyer.

WURSHIPFUL sire, and my right gode mayster, I recomaunde me to zou, and hertely I thanke zour gode maystership that ze liked to sende my mayster zour sone to Sporle with suych felaship as ze dede, for which I am ever bounde to doo zou service, prayeng zou of zour gode contenuaunce.

Sire, the cause why I kam not was this: I was falle seek with an axez [*ague*], and truly that caused me that I and my felaship taryed; and so be cause theroffe I caused my lady to wryte a specyall lettre to my Lord

Scales. But for al that Blake hath hoom the corn in my Lady of Suffolkys name. And the cause why I sent no wurd of my seknes was, that I wuld not myn enmy shuld be rejoysed be the knowlych of my seknesse. So God help me, the felaship that was redy to goo was right sory that thei myght not goo furth with me; and my lordes and my ladyes wyl was that thei shuld have goon further. But if I had been heil and not seek, there shuld have kome a wurshipful felaship out of Suffolk of so litel warnyng; but truly I lay seek at Ipeswych of the axcez bothe Sunday and Monday. But, sire, syn ze have shewed me so kyndely zour gode maystership, I praye zou I may have your felaship redy at a nothir tyme to help to execute a commyssion touchyng Blake, and that thei may be redy withinne ij. dayez after ze have warnyng. And, sire, my service is redy to zou at alle tymys, as ze shewe me gret cause to doo zou service. Wreten at Thelton,[1] the Wednysday next before Seynt Bertilmew Day in haste. Your servaunt,

WILLIAM JENNEY.

971.

A.D. 1459, 26 Nov.

SIR JOHN FASTOLF AND JOHN PASTON.

[From a Bodl. MS.]

MEMORANDUM, that I Robert Fytzrawff, Esquyer, recorde that I, beyng in my Master Fastolff chambre, lenyng upon the gret bedde, at suche tyme as John Paston, Esquyer, Master John Brackeley, Master Clement Felmyngham, weere in comonycacion with my seid master of dyvers gret maters towchyng his will, and serten appoyntmentes a twyx my seid master and the seid John Paston, in the weke next be ffor my seid master dissesid, I hard my seid master and the seid John Paston appoynte and

[1] Thelveton, near Diss, in Norfolk.

conclude that the seid John Paston shulde take upon hym the rwle of my masters howsold and of all his lyflod in Norffolk and Suffolk duryng his lyve; and aftir his dissese the seid John Paston shulde do ffounde a colage at Caster of vij. monkes or prestis, and pay iiij. m$^{l.}$ mark of money be yeres to my seid masteres executoris, at eche payment viij$^{c.}$ marke, till the seid som wer paid; and that the seid John Paston shulde have all the lyvelode that was my seid masters in Norffolk and Suffolk to hym and to his heyres in fee. And aftir this seid mater rehersed my seid master seide these wordes, "Cosyne, I pray you and requere you, lete this be settled in all hast withowte tarying, for this is my very last wille." Also be it knowe to all men that I had knowlege of this bargayne dyverse tymes halfe-yere past, and how my seid Master Fastolff and the seid John Paston wer nye at a conclucion of the seid maters a quarter of a yere be fore this last bargayne was made.

Wrete at Caster the xxvj. day of Novembre the xxxviij. yere of Kyng Herry the Sexte. In witnesse wherof, I have syngnyd this bull with myn own hand and sette to my seale. ROBT. FETZRAWFF.

972.

A.D. 1460 (?), 26 July.—ABSTRACT.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

THE KING TO JOHN NEDHAM AND THOMAS LITILTON, JUSTICES OF THE COUNTY PALATINE OF LANCASTER.

Desires them to show favor to the defendants in an appeal of robbery sued before them out of malice by Thomas Bury against John Berney of Redham, Norf., Junior, Esq., John Paston of Norwich, Esq., John Berney of Redham, Norf., Senior, Esq., John Hevenyngham, of Norwich, Esq., and Christopher Norwich of Brundehale. They are to receive no writ returned in the name of the Sheriff of Norfolk touching that matter except by the hands of the sheriff himself, or of John Bernarde his undersheriff.

London, 26 July.

II. Another letter, similar in substance, in which no justices' names are given.

[These documents cannot be later than 1460, as the younger John Berney died in July of that year (see next letter). But as Judge Littleton was only made a King's Serjeant in 1455, they cannot be many years earlier, and they are not unlikely to be of the year 1460 itself.]

973.

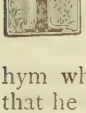
A.D. 1460, 28 July.

JOHN PASTON TO MARGARET PASTON.

[From Fenn, iv. 36.]

According to Fenn, Margaret Paston's uncle John Berney, second son of John Berney, Esq. of Reedham, died in July 1461, and he accordingly places this letter in that year. It is evident, however, that John Berney was dead at the date of Nos. 368 and 396, the former written in January 1461, the latter certainly not so late as the 28th July in the same year, for Thomas Denys was murdered at the very beginning of the month. Indeed, it is clear that in No. 396 Margaret Paston wishes to arrange about the approaching anniversary of her uncle's death. John Berney must therefore have died in July 1460, although from the troubled character of the times his will (which is preserved in the Principal Registry at Somerset House), made on the 2d June 1460 (Monday after the Feast of St. Petronilla the Virgin), was not proved till the 1st December 1461.

To my wurschipfull coysyn, Margaret Paston, be this delyvered in haste.



RECOMAUNDE me unto you, letyng you witte that your unkyll, John Berney, is deed, whoos soule God have mercy; desyryng you to sende for Thomas Holler,[1] and enquere of hym wher his goode is, and what he is wurthe, and that he take goode eede to all suche goods as he had bothe meveable and on mevable; for I undre stande that he is wurthe in money v^c. [500] marke, and in plate to the valwe of other v^c. marke, beside other goods. Wherfor I wolde ye schulde not lete hym wete of his dissese unto the tyme that ye had enquered of the seide Thomas Holler of all suche maters as be a bovyn

1 When Berney's will was proved at Lambeth, 1st December 1461, administration was granted provisionally to Thomas Hooler, who was to send in accounts before the morrow of the Conversion of St. Paul (Jan. 26) following. Power was, however, reserved of committing administration to John Paston. But John Paston did not appear on the day, and left the undivided administration to Hooler.

wreten, and whan he hathe enformed you therof, than lete hym wete verely that he is deede, desiryng hym that no man come on to his place at Redham but hym selfe, unto the tyme that I come.

Item, I lete you witte that gret parte of his goode is at William Taverners, as I undrestande. Thomas Holler woll telle you justely the trouthe as I suppose, and deseyre hym on my behalfe that he doo soo, and ther is writyng therof; and telle Thomas Holler that I and he be executours named, and therfore lete hym take heede that the goods be kept saffe, and that nobody knowe wher it shall lie but ye and Thomas Holler. And Thomas Holler, as your unkyll tolde me, is prevy wher all his goode lithe and all his writyng, and so I wol that ye be prevy to the same for casualte of deethe, and ye too shal be his executours for me as longe as ye doo trewly, as I trowe verely ye woll.

Wreten at London, the xxviij^{t} day of Jule.

I requer yow be of god cumfort and be not hevy, if ye wil do owth for me.

Yowr, JOHN PASTON.

974.

A.D. 1460, 1 Aug.—ABSTRACT.

[From MS. Index in Magd. Coll., Oxford.]

"Soutwerk cum membris," No. 50 *a*.—"Inquisitio post mortem Johannis Fastolf militis capta per escheatorem Regis, ubi mentio fit quorundam tenementorum, viz., the Berehouse, Boreshead, Hartshorne, et 2 molendinorum aquaticorum. Aug. 1, Hen. VI. 38."

975.

A.D. 1463, Feb. or March.

MARGARET PASTON TO JOHN PASTON.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

This letter though not addressed seems to have been written by Margaret Paston to her husband. The election referred to must have been that for the

Parliament of 1463. From one expression used it is clear that it was written some time before Easter, and the dispute with Jenney and Debenham about Calcote proves the date to a certainty. Compare Nos. 467 and 468 in Vol. ii.

PLEASE you to wet that Will. Jeney and Debham cam to Calcote on Wednysday before none, and ther they spake with Rysyng and John Smythe, and haskyd hem rent and ferme, and they seydyn they had payed you, and so they myght not paye hem. Also, ferthermore, they told hem that ye had hold a corte ther syn that they enteryd there. Than Jenney answerd ageyn "Be cause he held a corte here we mad hym hold corte at London, and so shall we make the to hold a corte at Ipysweche withowt thow wolt pay us the rent and ferme." "Sir," quod Rysyng, "I toke the ferme of my master and of Sir Thomas Howys." Jenney seyd, "And as for Sir Thomas, he and we schall acord well i nowe." And so they hahte seled up the berne dore and woll dryve a wey the catell bothe of the fermores and of the tenauntes, withowt the fermor and John Smythe woll fynd hem suerte to pay hem at Esterne, and Jenney and Debham woll [be] bownd ageyn to hem in a obligacion of xl*li.* to save hem harmelese ageyns you. And so as yet Rysyng standythe under award at Leystofte. So Rysyng hathe sent word to me that I shall knowe thys nyght or ellis to morowe what end they hathe mad.

Item, as towchyng the burges of Yermothe they wer chosyn on Wednysday. The Baly Wydwell ys on; and as for the todyr the Bischoppe sent to the towne for to have a man of hys owne, and so they be not acordyd yit of hym; en cas they may not acord, John Rus shall be the todyr.

Item, as towchyng Grene, a came not to Caster on Thursday, for he went to Norwich the same day, and so he is yet ther. Daubeney hathe spokyn with Watkyn Shypdam for to be at Beyton on Monday to kepe a corte ther; and so he woll be at Caster on Sonday and spek with you, for he seythe that Fastolf[1] hathe

[1] Thomas Fastolt of Cowhawe.

mad a cleyme ther to; that is the cause he wolle comon and speke with you ther of hym selff.

Item, I can not, ner Daubeney nowther, fynd your wyght boke; it is not in the trussyng cofyr, ner in the sprucheste nothyr. Jon Walsham toke me a quayer, I suppose it lo[n]gythe to the same boke, that same I send you, and the byllis of Walcote with ale sealyd. Wretyn this day. By your, M. P.

On the back are the following accounts, written, in a very careless hand by Richard Calle:—

Forene' Recept'.

De Johanne Prentice de Castelaere ad festum Sanctæ Fidis per manus vicarii de Sporle, . .	lx*s.*
De Roberto Wylley clerico post Nativitatem Domini,	c*s.*
De Willelmo Whyte, vigil' Conversionis Sancti Pauli,	vj*li.* xiij*s.* iiij*d.*
De Edmundo Wynter, mason, de Bermynghem circa Conversionem Sancti Pauli, ...	vj*s.* viij*d.*
De Willelmo Elys de Wynterton ad Pascha	vj*s.* viij*d.*
De Warino Herman ad Pascha	xiij*s.* iiij*d.*
De Johanna Bakeney uxore Gerard, . .	xiij*s.* iiij*d.*

Item, de Johanne Russe.

Rec. de Willelmo Norwich et M. Johanne Smythe venditio jocalium Johannis Berney de Redham pro tant' denar' pro me pro debito ipsius Berney apud Redham solut', ...	xx*li.* xv*js.*

Recept' de Tesauro.

Inprimis, pro viagio Johannis Paston, Jun. cun. Rege et aliis causis (?) versus Annewyke de denariis receptis de debito prioris Norwicensis	l*li.*
Item, de auro remanente de Coppes in eadem baga, .	lx*s.*
Item, de baga pecuniæ prestandæ eodem tempore, .	viij. marc'.
Item, de remanent' in forcerio tesaur' li'berat'[1] frater meus Will' Yelv'n, . . .	x*s.* iiij*d.*

Termino Michaelis.[2]

Item, de pecunia remanente cum Thoma Gresham apud London; termino Michaelis xx*li.*, termino Hillarij, xxxiij*s.* iiij*d.*	xxj*li.* xiij*s.* iiij*d.*
Item, de tesauro London termino Michaelis, l. marc', termino Hillarij l. marc', termino Paschæ l. marc', }	c*li.*
Item, de tesauro Norffolk cariat' versus London termino Paschæ, ultra xl*li.* remanens (*sic*) apud terminum Trinitatis, ...	xl. marc'.

[1] The words "tesaur' liberat'" are interlined and apparently intended to be inserted here. I must leave the grammar of the sentence as it stands in the original. The word at the end, which I believe stands for "Yelverton," is very ambiguous from the careless writing.

[2] These words are inserted between the lines, but whether they were intended for a heading is a little uncertain.

976.

A.D. 1464.—Sacred Vessels.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

This list of articles is in the handwriting of Richard Calle, writing, I presume, as John Paston's secretary, and in his name. It will be seen that it corresponds with a Latin list contained in No. 487, and must therefore be the "bill drawn in English" there referred to.

This is the plate that was in my cofir at Norwich.

Chaleys of goold playne, weyng ij. pound.

Item, a nother chaleys of goold, with this writynge "Calicem salutaris[1] accipiam," weyng xix. unces.

Item, one table of gold, with an image of Sen James set with precious stonys, weyng xiij. unce iij. quarter.

Item, one peyre of sensers of silver and gilt, with scripture, viz., in the first part, "Dat' est eis," &c., and in the second parte, "Ascendit fumus," &c., weyng xiij*li.* et x. unc'.

Item, one box of silver and gilt for the sacrement, with a crosse in the heyght, and chased with liliis, weying v*li.* iij. unc' di.

Item, one potte callid a crismatorie to put in holy creme and oyle, of silver and gilt, weying j*li.*

977.

A List of Gilt Images.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

This list is likewise in the handwriting of Richard Calle, and was perhaps drawn up about the same time as the preceding one.

N image off Owr Lady with ij. awngellis sensyng, gilthe, viij^{xx}. unc', viz., xiü*li.* et. iiij. unc'.

[1] Salutularis, MS.

Item, a crosse with a fott, lx. unc', gilthe in to cassys and gilt, viij^{xx} & xvij. unc', viz., xiiij*li.* & ix. unc'.

Item, an image of Sent Jon Vangelist, gilthe, weyng vij^{xx}x. unc', viz., xij*li.* vj. unc'.

Item, an image of Sent Jon Baptist, gilthe, with the Lamb, lviij. unc', viz., iiij*li.* x. unnc'.

Item, an image off Sent Jamis with his staff, gilthe, weyng xxxvj. unc', viz., iij*li.*

Item, an image off Our Lady, gilthe, with a crowne and a lely, weyng iij^{xx}vj. unnc', viz., v*li.* vj. unc'.

Item, an image of Sent Denys, gilthe, weyng l. unc', viz., iiij*li.* ij. unc'.

Item, an image off owr Savyowr, gilt, with His crosse, His diademe, and His fane, v^{xx}xj. unc', viz., ix*li.* iij. unc'.

Summa unciarum xl^{xx}viij. unc'.
Summa lxvij. lib. iiij. unc'.
Sum in markis Cj. mark ij. unc', di.

Memorandum, j. lib. continet xij. unc'; j. marc continet viij. unc'.

Endorsed—Episcopus Cantuariensis.

978.

A.D. 1465, 14 Oct.

The Duke of Suffolk's Attack on Hellesdon

[From a Bodl. MS.]

THYS be the parcell underwryten of such godys as were taken and beren away at Haylesdon, of John Pastons, hys sones and hys servaunts by the Duk of Suffolk servaunts and tenaunts the xiiij. day of October the v. yere of Kyng E. the

iiij^{te}, the whych day the place of Haylesdon was broken and pullyd dowyn, &c.

In primis, ther was lost of John Pastons ther at that tyme in beddyng ij. ffeder bedds with ij. bolsters, iiij. materas, with iiij. bolsters; a grete seler with the testor, and iij. corteyns of whyte lynen cloth, and a coverlyte of whyte werstede longyng therto.

Item, a selere with a testore, and iij. corteyns of blewe bokeram with a coveryng of blew werstede longyng therto; v. pylowys of dowyn, vj. coverlyts of werk of dyvers colors, vj. payr blankettys, ij. payr shytes of iij. webbys, ij. hedshytes of ij. webbys, vj. payre shytes of ij. webbys, ij. basons of pewter, and iij. candelstykks of latyn for the chamber.

The Botere.

Item, in primis, vj. bord clothys, vj. towellys, xij. napkyns, vj. candelstykks of laton, ij. saltsalers of sylver, ij. saltsalers of pewter, ij. basons of pewter with ij. ewers, a barell of vyneger, a barell of vergyous, xij. ale stondys, ij. pantre knyves, a pyce of sylver, a pype for brede, a ale stole, xij. spones of sylver, &c.

The Browhern.

Item, a grete lede to brew v. comb malte with one plawyng, a mayshsate, ij. kylyng sates, vj. kylers, ij. clensyng sates, a taptrogh, a temps to clense, with a scyppe to bere malte, a syff to syft malte, a bultyng pype, ij. knedyng satys, a moldyng bord.

The Kychyn.

Item, ij. dosyn pewter vessell, iiij. grete bras pannes, iij. potts of bras, j. greddyron, ij. broches, j. dressyng knyff, j. morter of marbell with a pestell, j. litell panne of bras of di. galon, ij. pothoks, ij. rakks of yron, ij. brendeletts, a almary to kepe in mete, j. axe to clyve wode, ij. saltyng satys to salte in fflesh.

Gere taken owt of the Chyrch.

Item, in the stepell, ix. sheffe arwys, ix. bawys, ij. handgonnes, iiij. chambers for gonnys, ij. mallys of lede, ij. jakks.

Item, in the church, a purs and iij. gold ryngs, a coler of sylver of the Kyngs lyvery and a nobyll of viij*s.* iiij*d.*, the whych was Wykys.

Item, a syde gowne of blewe of Wyks.

Item, a stokke gonne with iij. chambers.

Gere taken owte of the Chaumber of Ric. Calle.

Item, a syde morrey gowne, a dobelet of blak satyn, a payre hosyn, a jakks, the polronds of a payre bryganders of rede sateyn ffugr.

Item, a payr of large tabelles of box, pris vj*s.* viij*d.*

Item, a staffe, pris iij*s.* iiij*d.*

Item, boke of Frensh, pris iij*s.* iiij*d.*

Gere taken away of Margeret Pastons.

Item, an unce of gold of Venyse, di. pype of gold damask, di. unc' of gold of Gene, an unc' of sylk, a li. of threde, a close glasse of yvery, a grete combe of yvere, a fyne kerchy of fyne Holond cloth, a quarter of blak velwet.

Gere of Johanne Gayns.

Item, a ryng of gold with a dyamonics, a typet of sarsenet, a nobyll of x*s.*, a nobyll viij*s.* iiij*d.*

Gere of John Wyks.

Item, a dobelet of blak fusteyn, a hers harnys, vj*s.* a gray hers, pris xl*s.*, ij. shertys, pris iiij*s.*

Will. Bedford.

Item, a Normandy byll and a bawe, pris of them both vj*s.*

John Boteler.

Item, a payr botys, a payr sporys, a shert, a cappe, a hatte, a dobelet, a payr hosyn, a brydell, ij. crepers, v. ston of wall, xxx. welfellys, a spere staff.

Shepe.

Item, taken away uppon Draytun grounde at on tyme by the baylly of Cossey and others, CC. shepe callyd hoggys.

Item, at a nother tyme, uppon the same ground, iiij^{xx} hoggys and xl. theyves.

Item, at a nother tyme, at Haylesdon, by the baylly of Cossey and Bottesford and other, viij^{cc} moder shype and CCCC. lambes.

Memorandum, a gowne of Richard Calle, pris ix*s.*, j. peyr hosen, iij*s.*, j. swerd, iij*s.*, ij. bonets, ij*s.* . . . . j. jakk, xxvj*s.* viij*d.*, j. schert, iij*s.* iiij*d.*

Memorandum, the pullyng downe of the place at Heylesden, to the hurts and skathes of ———

Item, the pullyng downe of the logge of Heylesden.

Item, the distroyng of the waryne at Heylesdon.

Item, ... the maner and the warreyn.

Item, memorandum, the rydyngs and costs off suthe.

Memorandum, the assaw made uppon Marg. Paston, Sir John Paston, at Heylysdon beeffor the place was . . . . . .

Memorandum, the imprisonment off Sir John Paston in the Flet and in the Kyngs Benche.

979.

A.D. 1466.—Fastolf's Goods.

[From a MS. in the Tower of Magd. Coll., Oxford.]

This is a paper drawn up by William Worcester after John Paston's death in 1466. The errors in grammar are characteristic of the writer.

DECLARACIO bonorum mobilium Johannis Fastolf militis ad manus Johannis Paston armigeri deveniencium et possidencium tam ex liberacione Thomæ Howys, Rectoris de Pulham, unius executoris dicti militis, quam ex Rapto aliorum hominum serviencium et tenencium suorum. Ac valorem in possessione dominiorum maneriorum terrarum et tenementorum suorum in eorum prima perquisicione per dictum militem solutorum et per heredem dicti Paston clameatorum pro nichilo solvendo, cum custubus edificacionis eorundem. Et pro quibus omnibus supra specificatis executores dicti militis petiunt de heredibus et executoribus dicti Johannis Paston, solucionem restitucionem ac satisfacionem de dampnis occasione hujusmodi retencionis.

In primis.

Die octava mensis Novembris anno xxxviij. Regni Regis Henrici Sexti, videlicet tercio die post obitum Johannis Fastolf militis, Thomas Howys clericus, coexecutor dicti Johannis Fastolf, deliberavit Johanni Paston armigero de bonis dicti Johannis Fastolf existentibus ad tunc sub salva custodia in abbathia Sancti Benedicti de Hulmo de parte majoris summe in auro, videlicet in nobilibus antiquis boni et justi ponderis ij$^{ml.}$ cccc. nobilia, precii nobile viij*s.* iiij*d.*, faciunt m^{l}*li.*, et alia vice in moneta argenti xxiiij*li.* xvij*s.* ij*d.*; unde summa . . . . . m^{l}xxiiij*li.* xvij*s.* ij*d.*

Item, idem Thomas liberavit Johanni Paston dicto mense Novembris apud Norwicum, de vasis argenti diversarum specierum ad tunc habitarum extra thesauraium dicti militis manerij de Castre, iiij$^{ml.}$ xxiij. unciarum ponderis Troie, precium uncie ij*s.* x*d.*, faciunt v$^{c.}$lxix*li.* xviij*s.* vj*d.* Et eidem Johanni apud Norwicum alia vice, de vasis argenti, ponderis lvij. unciarum, precium uncie ut supra, vij*li.* iiij*s.* x*d.* Et eidem Johanni alia vice apud dictum Castre liberantur de vasis argenti Cxij. unciarum precium ut supra xv*li.* xvij*s.* iiij*d.*; unde summa . . . . . v$^{c.}$iiij^{xx}viij*li.* viij*d.*

Item, idem Thomas liberavit eidem Johanni Paston apud Norwicum dicto mense Novembris, in cyphis et vasis auri triati et finati, iij^{xx}xv. unciarum ponderis Troie, precium uncie xl*s*. . . . . Cl*li*.

Item, idem Thomas liberavit dicto Johanni ad faciendum certum prestitum comiti de Salysberye de bonis dicti Johannis Fastolf, unde idem Johannes Paston habet sufficientem securitatem et obligacionem Episcopi Norwicensis xxxiij*li*. v*js*. viij*d*. Et consimili modo liberavit dicto Johanni ad faciendum certum prestitum domino de Fitzwater, unde idem Johannes habet sufficientes securitates, xxxiij*li*. v*js*. viij*d*. . . lxvj*li*. xiij*s*. iiij*d*.

Item, dictus Johannes Paston cepit de bonis dicti militis existentibus sub custodia Willelmi Worcetyr, contra agreamentum suum, et tradita per ipsum ad salvo custodiendum Thome Plummer de London scryvaner et Johanni Gressham de eadem capper, videlicet in vasis argenti diversarum specierum m^{l}viij^{c}iiij^{xx}x. unciarum, precium uncie ut supra, CClxviij*li*. v*s*. Et consimiliter cepit cyphum coopertum de puro auro ponderis Troie xxiij. unc', j. quart. di., precium uncie xl*s*., xlvj*li*. xv*s*. Et similiter cepit unam cathenam auri puri, ponderis Troie xxiij. unc' et dimidii, precium unc' ut supra xlvij*li*. . . . . CCClxij*li*.

Item, idem Johannes Paston cepit consimili modo de bonis dicti militis traditis Willelmo Worcetyr ad custodiendum, dicto mense Novembris, videlicet London, apud domum dicti Thome Plummer, ultra Cxl*li*. per dictum Worcestre solutas pro panno nigro pro liberatis togarum datis erga funeralia dicti militis, et pro serico pro baneretis pictis cum armis, necnon pro vino et speciebus, videlicet viij^{c}j. nobilia antiqua boni et justi ponderis, precium nobile viij*s*. iiij*d*., iij^{c}xxxiij*li*. xv*s*. Et liberantur dicto Johanni Paston per manus dicti Thome Howys, London, de moneta tradita in custodia dicti Thome Plummer lxij*li*. xj*s*. iiij*d*.; pro toto. . . CCCiiij^{xx}xvj*li*. v*js*. iiij*d*.

Item, dictus Johannes Paston cepit consimili modo

de Willelmo Worcestre certa notabilia monilia et jocalia auri cum lapidibus preciosis garnizata, videlicet unum monile ditissimum vocata Anglice *a White Rose* nuper domini ducis Eborum[1] cum magno precioso lapide vocato *a poynted dyamant*, qui in prima empcione constabat, ut dicitur, iiij^{or} m$^{l.}$ marcarum, ac alia duo jocalia nuper dicti domini ducis tradita in plegio quando dictus Johannes Fastolf obligatus fuit pro dicto duce in tribus milibus libris executoribus cardinalis Anglie[2] super certis denariis prestitis dicto duci, et unde idem, dominus dux debebat dicto Johanni Fastolf in denariis prestitis CCCClxvj*li.* xiij*s.* iiij*d.* Et pro aliis justis causis CClxvj*li.* xiij*s.* iiij*d.* Et predicta tria jocalia per assensum dicti domini ducis sub sigillo armorum in scriptis tradita assignata fuerunt dicto Johanni Fastolf ut bona sua propria ad vendendum et disponendum in recompensacione debiti sui et aliis magnis laboribus et vexacionibus dicti militis pro dicto duce sustentatis et habitis dum modo locum tenens pro Rege fuit in Francia, ac postea in Anglia. . . . vij$^{c.}$xxxiij*li.* vj*s.* viij*d.*

Item, predictus Johannes Paston recepit exitus et proficua omnium maneriorum, terrarum et tenementorum dicti militis in comitatibus Norffolk, Suffolk, Essex et Surrie per manus ministrorum et servorum sine consensu executorum dicti militis, diversis annis ex quo obiit, per propinquam estimacionem . . m$^{l.}$vj$^{c.}$lxvj*li.* xiij*s.* iiij*d.*

Item, dictus Johannes Paston recepit diversa alia catalla et bestias dicti militis, videlicet equos et palefridos principales suos valoris xxx*li.* ac oves et animalia minuta cubancia in pasturis de Castre et aliis maneriis, videlicet ij$^{m.}$iiij$^{c.}$lvj. oves diversorum generum precium capitis xiiij*d.* Cxliij*li.* v*s.* iiij*d.* Et in precio xiij. magnarum bestiarum vj*li.* Et in valore vj$^{m.}$ cuniculorum apud Warennam de Haylysdon anno quo dictus miles obiit per Warennarios ibidem per propinquam estimacionem assessatos precium m$^{l.}$ xv*s.*, xlv*li.* Simi-

[1] Richard, Duke of York, father of Edward IV.
[2] Probably Cardinal Beaufort; but it may be Cardinal Kemp.

liter in precio vellerum lane ovium de stauro suo apud Haylysdon ante obitum suum remanencium, xxvj*li.* xiij*s.* iiij*d.* per ipsum recept' . . CCl*i.* xviij*s.* viij*d.*

Item, idem Johannes Paston recepit apud Castre predictam stuffuram et ordinacionem pro defensione patrie in artilleria, videlicet colubrinas librillas[1] diversorum magnitudinum cum cameris in decem carectis oneratis ac in curassys, brigandinis, jakkis, salectis, basnetes, habourjonnys, lanceis, crossebowes de calibe [*chalybe*], longbowes, arcubus, sagittis, gonnepowder, gonnestonys, et cetera hujusmodi defensibilia valoris, Cl*i.*

Item, recepit apud Castre per supervisum dicti Thome Howys in valore librorum pertinencium capelle ac in utenciliis garderobe dicti militis ibidem, videlicet in costeris et lectis de pluma et coopertoria de arras et tapestria ac penulis de martys cum togis necnon utencilia aule camerarum coquine et cetera hujusmodi, ut per billam de particulis patet, Cxxj*li.* vij*s.* iiij*d.* Et simili modo de utenciliis Warderobe et camerarum remanencium apud manerium suum in Suthwerk, valoris xx*li.*, ... Cxlj*li.* vij*s.* iiij*d.*

Item, dictus Johannes recepit per manus dicti Thome Howys, Willelmi Paston, Thome Playter, Thome Plummer de London, scryvaner, Christofori Hansson armigeri et Luce Nantron ad diversas vices tam Londoniis quam in Suthwerk, ut patet per billam de parcellis, ... Ciiij*li.* xj*s.* viij*d.*

Item, idem Willelmus Worcestre mense Julii anno v^to^ regni Regis Edwardi quarti solvit uxori dicti Thome Plumer pro debito dicti Johannis Paston ut pro panno nigro ac prestita facta et liberaciones argenti fact' suo mandato diversis personis, . . . xxxij*li.*

Item, idem Johannes recepit in valore et precio panni lanei nigri coloris per ipsum dati diversis hominibus de affinitate sua propria, ultra Clij*li.* ut in precio panni lanei nigri coloris provisi et dati amicis et servientibus dicti Johannis Fastolf erga funeralia sua tenenda, xl*li.* Et similiter idem Johannes Paston fecit

[1] *colubrinas librillas, i.e.,* culverins.

prefatum Thomam Howys exponere et tradere diversis hominibus in regardis et solucionibus circa propria negocia dicti Paston expedienda London' et alibi xxx*li.* xvj*s.* j*d.* Et consimiliter idem Johannes fecit dictum Thomam exponere et solvere in expensis victualium hospicii tenti apud Castre anno primo quo idem miles obiit, tam circa extraneos et notos supervenientes de affinitate et amicicia sua sine causa apud Castre Maner trahentes ibidem moram inutilem, ad summam iiij^{xx}x*li.*, prout evidenter patebit per certam declaracionem, ... Clx*li.* xvj*s.* j*d.*

Item, ultra predicta bona sic sibi applicata, prefatus Johannes Paston pretendebat habere et possidere, sine racione et scripto autentiquo, omnia dominia, terras et tenementa dicti militis in comitatibus Norffolk, Suffolk et Norwico, ac sine solucione alicujus summe que constabant dicto militi in prima empcione ultra edifficaciones et repparaciones dictorum maneriorum, ix$^{ml.}$viij^{c}*li.*

Item, considerandum est quod, ultra dictas perquisiciones, edifficacio manerii de Castre velut fortalicium defensionis patrie constabat in triginta annis vj$^{ml.}$*li.* Et edifficacio manerii de Haylysdon, cum clausura bosci et warenne, ac edifficacione duarum domorum vocatarum *lez logges* apud Haylysdon et Drayton, v^{c}xlviij*li.* xiij*s.* iiij*d.* Et custus imparcacionis parci in Cotton cum repparacione manerii iiij^{c}*li.* Et repparacio principalis mesuagii sui in villa de Jernemouth CC*li.* Edifficacio et repparacio tenementorum suorum in civitate Norwici CCxl*li.* . . vij$^{ml.}$CCCiiij^{xx}viij*li.* xiij*s.* iiij*d.*

Item, ultra ista, prefatus Johannes Paston retinet in custodia sua principales evidencias maneriorum dicti militis vocatorum Dedham Netherhall et Dedham Overhall in comitatu Essex; que quidem maneria, in defectu dictarum evidenciarum per ipsum non prosequutorum a tempore obitus dicti militis pro recuperacione eorundem, et hucusque, existunt extra possessionem, in maximum prejudicium defuncti, pro eo quod dictum manerium vocatum Dedham Netherhall constabat dicto militi in prima empcione m$^{l.}$*li.*, et pre-

dictum manerium vocatum Dedham Overhall Clx*li.* Et exitus et proficua dictorum maneriorum que ad manus executorum dicti militis medio tempore non devenerunt secundum ratam xl*li.* per annum ascendunt ad CCiiij^{xx}*li.* Sic in toto, . m^{l}iiij^{c} xl*li.*

980.

A.D. 1467, 21 July.
Declaration of Sir Thomas Howys.

[From a MS. in the Tower of Magd. Coll., Oxford.]

BE it knowen to all men that this present wrytyng shall rede, see, or hyre. Forasmoche as I understande nowe late ther ys a newe contryved processe concernyng the variaunce uppon my maister Sir John Fastolf is testament and last will, whos soule God assoyle, made by Sir John Paston, Knyght, and his counsell in the seyd Pastons name and myne, ayenste Sir William Yelverton, Knyght, and William Worcetter, that is exhibited and putte in my lordys courte of Audience be fore his auditoure, me unwetyng or assentyng, in the vigille of Seint John Baptiste; in wheche processe ys surmyttyd and made mencion that William Worcetter in his owne persone, and by others in his name, hathe promysed and gevyn money to corupte certayne wytnesse to depose untreuly in a processe exhibit in John Pastons lyf tyme by Sir William Yelverton, Knyght, the sayd William Wissetter ayenste John Paston decesed and me; and wheche witnesse were Stephan Scrope, Squier, Richard Fastolf, gentilman, Thomas Neve, gentilman, William Boswell, clerk, John Monke, Nicholas Churche, John Rugge, John Daunson, Richard Horne, Thomas Pykeryng, Harry Clerk, John Tobye, Thomas Hart, Thomas Neuton, John Gyrdyng, Thomas Spycer, and others, frome the moneth of August into the moneth of

March, the yere of Cryst M^li CCCClxv., yn Yermouthe, Castre, Fretenham, Bloof-ld, Thetford, Brundale, Wroxham, Borough, Southetoune, Yermouthe, Gorleston, Suthewerk, Norwych, and London; so they to be corupted in all the forseyd named tounes wyth prayer, price, and money to hem promised and gevyn, be syd har expences, her costs, and her labours, to be conducted to depose with Sir William Yelverton and William Worcetter partye ayenste the seyd John Paston and mee: I the sayd Thomas Howys so made partye, and unwetyng and assentyng, ayenste the [said][1] Sir William Yelverton and William Worcestre, sey and afferme for trouth in this matyer to be knowen, that for declaracion of trouth in this processe and mater, and for the discharge of my concience and the trewe acquietall to my sayd Master Fastolf that putte me in grettyst charge of hys testament, and for grete remorse I have in my soule of the untrewe forgyng and contryvyng certayne testamentes and last wyll by naked wordes in my sayd Maister Fastolf name aftyr he was desesyd; y, in the name of the seyd Sir William Yelverton and William Worcetter, required and prayed the sayd above named witnesse and alle other wytnesse produced in Sir William Yelverton and William Wyssetter name before that tyme, excepte the forsayd Stephan Scrope, Esquier, and Richard Fastolf, to come to London, and appere in my lords house of audience before his auditour, and there to say, depose, and witnesse the trouthe as they knewe in especiall, in the absense of John Russe, Sir Robert Cotiler, late vycar of Castre, Robert Botyler beyng oute of the chamber of Sir John Fastolf, Knyght, there he lay seke in his maner of Castre, the Saterdaye next before the seid Sir John Fastolf discesyd, namely, from viij. tylle xj. atte belle affore mydday, and present in other placez, where diverse of the sayd named wytnesse and diverse other witnesse sawe ham. And the sayd Worcestre nother promysed ne yave hem gode, money, nother reward, neyther relessed no debtes, not

[1] Omitted in MS.

soo nought payed not for har costes, nother dispenses by the wey comyng to London, taryeng, ne returnyng a yen, that lawe and reson wold understonde the sayd witnesse ought have for har costes and labours, weche was payed by my handes, I beyng present dayly and tymely diverse tymes most conversaunt at Jermuth wyth hem; and in especiall wham they taryed more than xxiiij. dayes in London or they coude be examyned; and I knowe well the sayd Sir William Yelverton, nouther the seyd William Worcestre promysed ne payed no maner money ne godes worth, nouther relessyng har dutes, yf any they axed they knowe yt not, as the seyd named witnesse wylle sey and certyfye the trouth. And as for ij. witnesse called Bunch and Shave, lete hem be examynyd, yf the seyd Sir William or William Worcestre fyrst procured, moved, or excited hem at Yermouth, or any other place, to come to London to depose in the said maters, or promysed or payed hem ony money, or any man for ham promysed or payed; and yf they be of trewe disposicion, they woll discharge the seyd Sir William Yelverton and William Worcestre, for ther was none in especiall but I, that labored hem alle to come to London to my lordis audience yn the seyd Yelvertons and Worcestre names; but I pryncipally required them to depose treuly as they knewe, be the owte promyse, mede, rewarde, or money, yn the discharge of my concience, and for the trouthe of the mater to be knowen to all the worlde, as I am redy to preve, whyle God lendeth me lyffe, and yn the same quarell to dye. And I evyr seth that I understode the seyd John Paston is untrewe demenyng in the contryvynge of my Maister Fastolf testament and last wille, and was compellyd to appere before my lord ys auditour at Lambyth, to be sworn atte my ffree will to declar the trouth of my seyd maister trewe testament and last wyll befor my seyd Lord of Canturbury is auditur of his courte of audience, I nevyr varyed ne held aftyr wyth John Paston, but alwey have ben stedfast wyth the processe that I have

enfourmed my Lord of Canterbury, and divers others astates also in like wyse have declared to the sayd Sir William Yelverton and William Worcestre to procede, and soo evyr woll be stedfaste. And in witness for trouth, I sele this declaracion wyth my signet, and subscrybe it wyth my hand and name, in presence of Maister John Prentyse, Sir Edmond Hall, John Smyth, John Robynson, Thomas Hoore, John Bullok, and Richard Batilmewe, the xxjth day of Jule the yer of Crist M$^{il.}$CCCC^{mo} lxvij^{o}. T. Howys.

981.

Abstract.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

Anonymous to Mrs [Margaret Paston?].

There is no tachment made in the land unless it be done privily. The sheriff has been thrice in our town in these three weeks. As for the panel of Frances' matter, there is none of the sheriff's deputies but Francis to inquire of.

[I am quite unable to attach a date to this letter, or to conjecture by whom it was written. Even the person to whom it is addressed is very uncertain, though I have suggested Margaret Paston.]

982.

Memorandum.

[From Paston MSS., B.M.]

I cannot tell by whom this memorandum was drawn up, nor do I know to what it refers. But as the MS. appears to belong to the Paston collection, and is of the period, I have not thought it right to omit it. The name "Vyall" which is written on the back of the paper occurs in No. 651.

Memorandum to speke with William Byrde be the same tokne, I came home from London to Norwich on Mydsomer evyn last past, and the same even I cam home to his howse, and brought hym xs. for a gyrdyll off myn that he had in his kepyng for a plegge off myn; and if so be that he wilnat ley out thes money, let hym send me the bill indentyd off my jowellys closyd in a letter with a signet off myn that my wiff hath in her keping.

Endorsed—Vyall

APPENDIX.

Part II.

WILLS.

From the Principal Registry of the Court of Probate at Somerset House, and from the Diocesan Registers at Norwich. For the Memoranda of the latter I am indebted to the kindness of Dr. Jessopp.

983.

A.D. 1419, June.—CLEMENT PASTON.

[Reg. Dioces. Norvic., Hyrning, f. 51, b.]

WILL OF "CLEMENS PASTON DE PASTON, sanæ mentis," &c. (no style of Armiger or any other designation), A.D. 1419, June.

Leaves his soul to God, St. Margaret, and All Saints; his body to be buried in the parish church of St. Margaret at Paston, between the north door and the tomb of his wife Beatrix.

Legacies—(1.) To the High Altar (sum not named); (2.) To the Vicar of Paston for tithes, &c., 3*s.* 4*d.*; (3.) For the lights "Beatæ Margaretæ in cancella . . . coram ymagine Beatæ Margaretæ, vj*li.* cer."; (4.) "Item, luminibus super le Rodelofte ejusdem ecclesiæ, xij*d.*"; (5.) For the reparation, &c. of the church, 3*s.* 4*d.*; (6.) To the Vicar of Bakton (as above) 2*s.*; (7.) For the repair, &c. of Trunch church, 8*d.*; (8.) For the repair of Monslee church, 6*d.*: (9.) "Item, Priori et Conventui de Bromholm, vj*s.* viij*d.*"

The residue to Martha, "quæ fuit uxor Johannis Bakton, sorori meæ, et Willelmo Paston, filio meo," that they may pay his debts, make restitution for any wrongs done, and expend the rest in works of charity and piety for the good of his own soul, that of Beatrix, his wife, the souls of his deceased parents and benefactors, "et animabus fidelium defunctorum."

Witnesses—"Nich'o Priori de Bromholm, Rich. Jernemuth Monacho, Rich. Vicario Ecclesiæ de Paston prædicta, Johanne Kyng, capellano, Roberto Gynne, et aliis."

Proved at Norwich, "2 Oct. An. Dom. supradicto."

984.

A.D. 1444, 10 Jan.—WILLIAM PASTON, THE JUDGE.

[Register Luffenam, 29.]

I.—[*Testament.*]

In Dei nomine Amen. Ego, Willelmus Paston de Paston, sanæ mentis et memoriæ, condo testamentum meum in hunc modum. In primis, lego animam meam Omnipotenti Deo, Beatæ Mariæ, et omnibus Sanctis, et corpus meum sepeliendum ad finem Australem altaris in Capella Beatæ Mariæ in fine Orientali ecclesiæ Cathedralis Sanctæ Trinitatis, Norwici. Et si contingat corpus meum ibidem sepeliri, lego cuilibet monacho sacerdoti ecclesiæ prædictæ qui singulis diebus aliqua septimana per septem annos proximo sequentes post mortem meam missam de Spiritu Sancto in capella prædicta tempore celebrationis summæ missæ in eadem ecclesia decantaverit, ad exorandum in eadem missa de Spiritu Sancto, et in aliis divinis per ipsum diebus illis factis, pro anima mea et animabus uxoris meæ, patrum, matrum et omnium consanguineorum et benefactorum nostrorum, et omnium quorum debitores sumus, et omnium per nos injuriam patientium, et eorum omnium pro quibus Deo est deprecandum et omnium fidelium defunctorum septem de nac' (?), Item, lego Roberto nunc priori ecclesiæ Sancti Andreæ de Bromholm quadraginta solidos; et cuilibet monacho ejusdem ecclesiæ conventus de Bromholm sex solidos et octo denarios; et executoribus testamenti Ricardi Causton, nuper vicarii ecclesiæ de Paston, viginti solidos; et executoribus testamenti Adæ, nuper vicarii ecclesiæ de Bakton, sex solidos et octo denarios; ita quod remittant et relaxent in conscientiis suis animabus prædictis si quæ per earum aliquam sibi debita fuerint. Et si hoc remittere et relaxare recusaverint, de prædictis legatis nihil habeant, sed in omnibus quæ sibi per animas prædictas vel earum aliquam deberi rationabiliter aut evidenter, in conscientia vel aliter, juxta discretionem executorum meorum, aut majoris partis eorundem, probaverint aut verificaverint, sibi

satisfaciant executores mei. Residuum vero bonorum meorum omnium non legatorum do et lego Agneti uxori meæ, Johanni filio meo, Willelmo Bakton et Johanni Damme de Sustede, quos ordino et constituo executores hujus testamenti mei, ut ipsi inde disponant pro[ut] in justis conscientiis suis magis viderint Deo placere et animabus prædictis prodesse. In cujus rei testimonium præsentibus sigillum meum apposui. Datum decimo die Januarii anno regni Regis Henrici Sexti post Conquestum vicesimo secundo. Hujus autem testamenti mei venerabilem in Christo patrem et dominum, dominum Willelmum Lincolniensem Episcopum[1] ordino et constituo supervisorem.

II.—[*Last Will*, 31 Jan. 1444.]

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Universis et singulis ad quos præsens scriptum indentatum pervenerit. Ego Willelmus Paston de Paston gratias, reverencias et honores. Cum diversæ personæ ad usum, proficuum et denominationem mea feoffatæ sive seisitæ existant sibi et hæredibus suis in feodo simplici in et de uno mesuagio, uno molendino, et certis terris, tenementis redditibus et serviciis cum pertinentiis in Paston, Bakton, Edithorp, Witton, et Moneslee, ac in aliis villis adjacentibus in comitatu Norffolk, quæ nuper fuerunt Clementis Paston, patris mei jam defuncti, cujus animæ propitietur Deus; ac de certis terris et tenementis, parcellis manerii vocati Latymers, remanentibus ultra et præter alia terras et tenementa parcellas dicti manerii nomine meo adiu[2] est dat' Priori et conventui ecclesiæ Sancti Andreæ de Bromholm et successoribus suis; quam perquisitionem prædicti prioris dominus Rex nunc per literas suas perdonavit; et uno tofto et uno columbari et aliis terris et tenementis cum pertinentiis in Bakton, Paston, Edithorp, Witton, et Casewik quæ nuper fuerunt Hugonis atte Fen de Jernemouthe; et de aliis terris et tenementis in Paston et Bakton per prædictos priorem et conventum mihi et aliis ad usum meum et hæredibus meis datis et concessis; et de et in uno mesuagio et certis terris, tenementis, redditibus, et serviciis cum pertinentiis in Estsomerton, Westsomerton, He[nnesby?], Martham, Wynterton in Flegge, ac in aliis villis adjacentibus, et in Heigham Porter, Veteri Bokenham et Bokenham Castell, in eodem comitatu, tam illa quæ . . . . . [quam] illa quæ nuper fuerunt Galfridi Somerton, avunculi mei, videlicet fratris Beatricis, matris meæ carissimæ jam defunctæ, quæ . . . . . .

[1] William Alnwick, Bishop of Lincoln from 1436 to 1449. He had been Bishop of Norwich before he was presented to Lincoln.

[2] So in MS.

Et in et de manerio de Oxenede, ac certis terris, tenementis et serviciis in Oxenede, Burgh, Skeyton, Marsham . . . . . [et in] aliis villis adjacentibus cum pertinentiis in eodem comitatu, quæ nuper fuerunt Roberti Salle militis, et Willelmi Clopton militis, firmarii (?) . . . . . sive aliquorum vel alicujus eorum in eodem comitatu: Et in et de maneriis de Marlyngford, Riston, Vaux, et Shipd[am] . . . . . medietate quatuor marcatarum, sive medietate unius marisci nuper Thomæ Ocam (?) [cum pertinentiis] in eodem comitatu . . . . . mesuagiis, ac certis terris, tenementis, redditibus et serviciis cum pertinentiis in Estodenham et aliis v[illis] . . . . . in eodem comitatu . . . . . Honyngham: Et in et de uno mesuagio ac certis terris et tenementis, redditibus et serviciis . . . . . in Wy . . . . . in comitatu prædicto quæ nuper fuerunt Willelmi Thuxton, Armigeri, vocata Tolyes: Et . . . . . Ricardi Doket in Carleton et aliis villis adjacentibus: Et in et de duobus . . . . . villis adjacentibus: Et in et de una pecia terræ in Carleton vocata W . . . . . de manerio de Snaylwell et aliis terris et tenementis quæ quondam fuerunt Johannis . . . . . Ac in et de manerio de Stanstede cum pertinentiis in comitatu Suffolk, et de Horwelbury . . . . . continue absque aliqua conditione collusione seu covina, istis tamen . . . . . mesuagiis, terris, tenementis, redditibus et serviciis prædictis ultimo . . . . . consciencia mea, lege Dei et Angliæ illæsa, fieri et exequi et adimpleri . . . . . Sciatis me, præfatum Willelmum Paston, ultimam voluntatem de præmissis . . . . . ligenti deliberacione declarasse, fecisse et limitasse juxta effectum verborum sequentium . . . . . seu seisitæ et omnes aliæ personæ quas in prædictis maneriis, terris et tenementis vel aliqua parcella eorum ad . . . . . imposterum feoffari contigerit, hæredes et assignati sui, quandocumque post mortem meam . . . . . ejus sufficiens warantum in hac parte habentem racionabiliter requisitæ fuerint per cartas . . . . . dum . . . . . præfatæ Agneti prædicta maneria de Oxenede, Marlyngforde, Stanstede, Horwelbury, et Sh . . . dictas pa . . .

. . . . de Latymers dictis priori et conventui minime datas, et prædicta mesuagia, molendinum, terras et tenementa, quæ fuerunt prædicti prioris et conventus, Roberti Salle, Willelmi Clopton, Francissæ, Clementis Paston, Hugonis atte Fen, seu alicujus eorum, ac medietatem prædictorum marisci et quatuor marcatorum redditus, in toto, per communem æstimationem, ad valenciam centum librarum per annum; habenda et tenenda eidem Agneti et assignatis suis ad totam vitam ejusdem Agnetis: Ita quod eadem maneria de Oxenede, Marlyngforde, Stanstede et Horwelbury, et terræ et tenementa quæ fuerunt Roberti Salle, Willelmi Clopton et Francissæ, seu alicujus eorum, cum pertinentiis, post mortem præfatæ Agnetis remaneant hæredibus de corpore meo et corpore prædictæ Agnetis exeuntibus. Et prædicta manerium de Shipdene et parcella manerii de Latymers, ac dicta mesuagia, molendinum, terræ et tenementa nuper Clementis Paston et Hugonis atte Fen, seu alicujus eorum, cum pertinentiis, post mortem prædictæ Agnetis, ad prædictas personas feoffatas seu feoffandas, hæredes et assignatos suos revertantur, ad perficiendam inde hanc ultimam voluntatem meam: Et si nullus extiterit hæres de corpore meo et corpore prædictæ Agnetis exiens, quod tunc post mortem ejusdem Agnetis prædictum manerium de Oxenede et dicta terræ et tenementa nuper prædictorum Roberti Salle, Willelmi Clopton et Francissæ, seu unius eorum, cum pertinentiis, ad prædictos feoffatos et hæredes suos similiter revertantur, ad perficiendam inde hanc ultimam voluntatem meam. Et quod prædicta maneria de Marlyngford, Stanstede et Horwelbury, cum pertinentiis, remaneant rectis hæredibus Edmundi Barry militis, patris prædictæ Agnetis, imperpetuum. Item, volo quod prædictæ personæ, ut prædicitur, feoffatæ seu feoffandæ, hæredes seu assignati sui, paciantur et permittant Robertum Clere, armigerum, Edmundum Clere, armigerum, Johannem Pagrave, armigerum, Willelmum Bakton de Bakton, et Johannem Damme de Sustede, vel duos eorum, per communem assensum eorum quinque, prædictum manerium de Snaylwell et prædicta alia terras et tenementa in Snaylwell, in toto, per communem estimacionem, ad valenciam quadraginta marcarum per annum, occupare, et exitus et proficua inde percipere et habere, a festo Sancti Michaelis proximo sequenti post mortem meam usque Edmundus filius meus jam ætatis xviij. amorum pervenerit ad ætatem xxj. annorum. Et quod iidem Robertus Clere, Edmundus Clere, Johannes Pagrave, Willelmus Bakton et Johannes Damme, seu dicti duo eorum, viginti marcas annuatim provenientes de eisdem exitibus et proficuis, inter prædictum festum Sancti Michaelis et dictam ætatem prædicti Edmundi, filii mei, per commune avisamentum et assensum suum et prædictæ Agnetis, annuatim distribuant in elemosinis inter notos, pauperes et debiles, tam hospicia tenentes quam alios qui non vadunt mendicatum, et pro missis, sacerdotum oracionibus, et suffragiis devotorum

pauperum utriusque sexus, tam religiosorum quam aliorum, celebrandis et fiendis, pro anima mea et prædictæ Agnetis, et animabus patrum et matrum nostrorum, et omnium consanguineorum et benefactorum nostrorum, et omnium quorum debitores sumus, et omnium per nos injuriam patientium, et eorum omnium pro quibus Deo est deprecandum, et omnium fidelium defunctorum; et de eisdem exitibus et proficuis prædicto Edmundo, filio meo quousque ad dictam ætatem xxj. annorum pervenerit, rationabiles victum, vestitum, apparatum et sustentationem, juxta gradus sui exigenciam, sic quod non superbiat, inveniant, et eum tam ad artis dialecticæ per dimidium annum, juris civilis per unum annum, ac juris regni Angliæ postea ad sufficienciam, si fieri poterit, sub sana tutela providenter ponant, et ipsum in eisdem continuare et residere faciant, prout eisdem melius visum fuerit ipsum Edmundum in hac parte sapere et intelligere et sibi in futurum prodesse; et domos, muros, ædificia, et clausuras in eodem manerio nostro existentia rationabiliter reparari faciant, et redditus et servicia et alia onera inde debita solvant, et hoc quod de eisdem exitibus et proficuis ad dictam ætatem dicti Edmundi remanserit juxta sanas conscientias suas eidem Edmundo satisfaciant tempore quo ipse juxta hanc voluntatem meam statum de eodem manerio receperit et habuerit. Item, volo quod prædictæ personæ, prout prædicitur, feoffatæ seu f[eoffandæ], hæredes seu assignati sui, paciantur et permittant prædictos Robertum Clere, Edmundum Clere, Johannem Pagrave, Willelmum Bakton et Johannem Damme, vel duos eorum per communem assensum eorum quinque, prædictum manerium de Beauchamp et Hollewelhalle et dicta alia mesuagia, terras, tenementa, tofta, clausuras, redditus et servicia, quondam Ricardi Doket, Willelmi Thuxton, Johannis Patgris senioris, Johannis Whynne et Eustachii Rows, seu aliquorum vel alicujus eorum, in Wymondham, Carleton, Bonnewell, Estodendam, et aliis villis adjacentibus, per communem estimacionem ad valenciam xxv. marcarum per annum occupare, et exitus et proficua inde percipere et habere, a prædicto festo Sancti Michaelis usque Willelmus filius meus, jam ætatis vij. annorum, pervenerit ad ætatem xviij. annorum; et quod iidem Robertus Clere, Edmundus Clere, Johannes Pagrave, Willelmus Bakton et Johannes Damme, vel dicti duo eorum, quinque marcas annuatim provenientes de eisdem exitibus per octo annos proximo sequentes prædictum festum Sancti Michaelis, per discretionem et avisamentum sua et prædictæ Agnetis, annuatim distribuant inter pauperes et debiles prædictos et [pro][1]missis, orationibus et suffragiis celebrandis et . . . . . in forma prædicta, et de eisdem exitibus et proficuis prædicto Willelmo filio meo usque ad dictam ætatem xviij. annorum pervenerit . . . . statum et sustentacionem juxta gradus sui exigenciam, sic quod non superbiat, inveniant et tribuant, et . . . . . .

[1] Omitted in MS.

ad scholas ponant et ibidem continuare et residere faciant prout prædicitur de prædicto filio meo Edmundo, et domos, muros et clausuras et ædificia in dict. . . . . et tenementis . . . repararent, et redditus et servicia et alia onera inde solvant, et de residuo dictorum exituum et proficuorum dicto Willelmo filio meo satisfaciant . . . . . statum de eisdem manerio, terris et tenementis juxta hanc voluntatem meam . . . . . hæredes seu assignati sui paciantur et permittant prædictam Agnetem . . . . . prædicta mesuagia, terras [et] tenementa in Est Somerton, West Somerton, Hennesby, Martham, et Wynterton, tam illa quæ fuerunt . . . . . quam illa quæ . . . . . de Reston in toto per communem æstimacionem ad valenciam xxv. marcarum . . . . . occupare, et exitus et [proficua?] inde percipere et gaudere a prædicto festo Sancti Michaelis usque Clemens filius meus . . . . . xviij. annorum; et quod eadem Agnes de eisdem exitibus et proficuis prædicto Clementi Paston . . . . . ad dictam ætatem xviij. annorum, et Elizabeth filiæ meæ quousque maritetur, racionabiles victum, vestitum, ... exigenciam, sic quod non superbiant, et de eisdem exitibus et proficuis nutriatur honeste . . . . . filiam, prædictam Elizabetham prout statui suo convenit, ac inveniat et ponat prædictum Clementem, filium meum, tam ad scholas grammaticales quam alias et cæteras erudiciones, prout prædicitur de prædictis fratribus suis; et domos, muros, clausuras, et ædificia in eisdem mesuagio, terris et tenementis existentia, racionabiliter reparari faciat, et redditus et servicia et alia onera inde debita solvat, ac annuatim quousque dictus Clemens, filius meus, ad dictam ætatem xviij. annorum [pervenerit?] [1] distribuat manu propria in elemosinis, juxta discretionem suam, inter magis pauperes et debiles creaturas, in honore Quinque principalium Vulnerum et Passionis Domini nostri Jesu Christi, et Quinque Gaudiorum Beatæ Mariæ Virginis et Matris ejus, pro animabus prædictis, quinque marcas; et de hoc quod de eisdem exitibus et proficuis ad dictam ætatem prædicti Clementis, filii mei, remanserit, satisfaciat eadem Agnes juxta sanam conscienciam suam eidem Clementi tempore quo ipse juxta hanc voluntatem meam statum de eisdem manerio, mesuagiis, terris, et tenementis, de prædictis personis feoffatis sive feoffandis receperit; et quod dictæ personæ feoffatæ seu feoffandæ, hæredes, seu assignati sui, infra xl. dies proximo sequentes postquam ipsi post festum Sancti Michaelis proximo post mortem meam per Johannem Paston, filium meum primogenitum, racionabiliter fuerint requisiti,

[1] Omitted in MS.

per facta sua tripartita et indentata, dimittent, liberent et assignent prædicto Johanni Paston, jam ætatis xx. annorum et amplius, prædictum manerium de Gresham cum pertinentiis, habendum eidem Johanni ad totam vitam suam; Ita quod si contingat prædictum Johannem Paston aliquem exitum vel hæredem de corpore Margaretæ nunc uxoris suæ procreare, quod tunc idem manerium cum pertinentiis post mortem ejusdem Johannis remaneat dictæ uxori suæ, tenendum sibi ad terminum vitæ ejusdem uxoris. Et si prædictus Johannes Paston nullum exitum vel hæredem de corpore dictæ uxoris suæ procreaverit, tunc immediate post mortem ejusdem Johannis idem manerium cum pertinentiis hæredibus masculis de corpore meo exeuntibus integre remaneat. Et si nullus fuerit hæres masculus de corpore meo exiens, quod tunc idem manerium cum pertinentiis integre remaneat prædictæ Agneti, uxori meæ, habendum et tenendum eidem Agneti ad totam vitam ejusdem Agnetis; Ita quod tunc post ejusdem Agnetis mortem idem manerium cum pertinentiis ad prædictos donatores et hæredes suos revertatur, ad exequendum et perficiendum inde hanc voluntatem meam. Et quod eædem personæ feoffatæ seu feoffandæ, hæredes seu assignati sui, infra xl. dies proximo sequentes postquam ipsi, post festum Sancti Michaelis proximo post mortem meam, et postquam prædictus Edmundus, filius meus, fuerit ætatis xxj. annorum plenarie completorum, racionabiliter fuerint requisitæ, per consimilia facta dimittant, liberent et assignent prædicto Edmundo, filio meo, prædictum manerium de Snaylwell, et prædicta terras et tenementa nuper Johannis Langham de Snaylwell, in Snaylwell, ac dictam reversionem manerii de Shipdene et prædictarum parcellarum manerii de Latymers, dictis priori et conventui minime data,[1] ac dictorum mesuag', molendini, terrarum et tenementorum quæ fuerunt prædictorum prioris et conventus, ac Clementis, patris mei, et Hugonis atte Fen, aut unius eorum, post mortem prædictæ Agnetis, habenda et tenenda eidem Edmundo et hæredibus masculis de corpore ipsius Edmundi exeuntibus. Et si contingat ipsum Edmundum sine hærede masculo de corpore suo exeunte obire, quod tunc eadem manerium, terræ, tenementa et reversio cum pertinentiis hæredibus de corpore ejusdem Edmundi exeuntibus remaneant. Et si nullus fuerit hæres de corpore prædicti Edmundi exiens, quod tunc eadem manerium, terræ, tenementa et reversio remaneant hæredibus de corpore meo exeuntibus. Et si nullus fuerit hæres de corpore meo exiens, quod tunc prædicta reversio ad predictos donatores et hæredes suos revertatur, et prædictum manerium de Snaylwell, terræ et tenementa, cum pertinentiis, remaneant prædictæ Agneti ad totam vitam suam. Ita quod, post ejus mortem, idem manerium cum pertinentiis ad prædictos donatores et hæredes suos similiter revertatur, ad perficiendum et perimplendum hanc voluntatem meam. Et quod eædem personæ feoffatæ seu feoffandæ, hæredes

[1] Sic in origine.

seu assignati sui, infra xl. dies proximo sequentes post festum Sancti Michaelis proximo post mortem meam, et postquam prædictus Willelmus filius meus fuerit ætatis xviij. annorum plenarie completorum, racionabiliter fuerint requisitæ, per consimilia facta dimittant, liberent et assignent prædicto Willelmo filio meo, prædicta maneria de Hollewelhalle et Beauchamp, et dicta mesuagia, terras et tenementa, redditus et servicia nuper Willelmi Thuxston Armigeri, Ricardi Doket, Eustachii Rows et Johannis Patgrys, seu unius eorum, in Estodenham, Wymondeham, Carleton, Bonewell, et aliis villis adjacentibus, habenda et tenenda eidem Willelmo et hæredibus de corpore suo exeuntibus. Et si contingat ipsum Willelmum sine hærede de corpore suo exeunte obire, quod tunc eadem maneria, terræ, tenementa, redditus et servicia, cum pertinentiis, remaneant Clementi Paston, filio meo, et hæredibus de corpore suo exeuntibus. Et si idem Clemens obierit sine hærede de corpore suo exeunte, eadem maneria, terræ, tenementa, redditus et servicia cum pertinentiis remaneant dictæ Agneti ad totam vitam suam. Ita quod post ejus mortem eadem maneria, terræ et tenementa cum pertinentiis ad præfatos donatores et hæredes suos revertantur, ad implendum et perficiendum inde hanc voluntatem meam. Et quod prædictæ personæ [feoffatæ] seu feoffandæ infra quadraginta dies proximo sequentes post festum Sancti Michaelis postquam prædictus Clemens filius meus post mortem meam fuerit ætatis xviij. annorum plenarie completorum racionabiliter fuerint requisitæ per consimilia facta dimittant, liberant et assignent prædicto Clementi filio meo prædictum manerium de Ryston, et prædicto mesuagia, terras, tenementa, redditus et servicia cum pertinentiis in Est Somerton, West Somerton, et aliis villis adjacentibus et in Heigham Potter, Bokenham et Bokenham Castell, habenda et tenenda eidem Clementi filio meo et hæredibus de corpore suo exeuntibus. Et si contingat ipsum Clementum filium meum obire sine hærede de corpore suo exeunte, quod tunc eadem manerium, mesuagia, terræ, tenementa, redditus et servicia remaneant prædicto Willelmo, filio meo et hæredibus de corpore suo exeuntibus. Et si contingat ipsum Willelmum sine hærede de corpore suo exeunte obire, quod tunc eadem manerium, mesuagia, terræ, tenementa, redditus et servicia cum pertinentiis remaneant hæredibus de corpore meo exeuntibus. Et si nullus fuerit de corpore meo exiens, quod tunc eadem manerium, mesuagia terræ et tenementa cum pertinentiis remaneant prædictæ Agneti, tenenda sibi ad totam vitam suam. Ita quod eadem manerium, mesuagia, terræ et tenementa, cum pertinentiis, post mortem prædictæ Agnetis, ad prædictos donatores et hæredes suos revertantur ad perficiendum inde hanc voluntatem meam. Item ad amorem et favorem inter prædictos Johannem, Edmundum, Willelmum, et Clementem filios meos et prædictam Elizabeth et præfatos hæredes suos, eorumque mutuam caritatem hinc inde nutriendum (?)

et amplificandum, volo et ordino per præsentes quod si aliqua terræ seu tenementa, sibi aut eorum alicui, per prædictas personas feoffatas seu feoffandas vel eorum hæredes vel assignatos in forma prædicta per dona et concessiones, immediate, in feodo talliato seu alio statu, per remanere aut alio quovis modo, danda seu concedenda, versus prædictos Johannem, Edmundum, Willelmum et Clementem, filios meos, et prædictam Elizabeth aut hæredes suos prædictos absque culpa recuperentur, vel aliqua inde parcella recuperetur, vel status eorum inde adnihiletur, quod infra unum annum proximo tunc sequentem residui eorum de porcionibus suis terrarum et tenementorum prædictorum, ut prædicitur, sibi dandorum et concessorum, juxta ratam annui valoris earundem portionum suarum, debitam faciant recompensacionem cæteris eorum de quorum porcionibus dictas recuperaciones vel status adnihilaciones fieri contigerit. Ita quod onus perdicionis in hac parte, si quod evenerit inter ipsos juxta ratam annui valoris portionum suarum uniformis sit et æqualis. Item, ad finem quod iste articulus præsentis voluntatis meæ proximo præcedens per prædictos Johannem, Edmundum, Willelmum et Clementem, filios meos, ac prædictam Elizabetham et hæredes suos prædictos sufficiencius et plenius exequatur, et quod dicta dona et concessiones immediate vel per remanere in feodo talliato vel alio statu, ut prædicitur, sibi faciendo per eorum facta, feoffamenta, cartas, scripta, vel alio modo non discontinuarentur, volo et ordino quod prædictæ personæ feoffatæ seu feoffandæ eorum hæredes et assignati, antequam ipsi aliquem statum de prædictis terris et tenementis aut parcella inde prædictis Johanni, Edmundo, Willelmo et Clementi, filiis meis, et prædictæ Elizabeth et hæredibus suis prædictis, seu eorum alicui, faciant, per scriptum suum indentatum dent et concedant prædicto Edmundo, filio meo, unum annuum redditum triginta librarum legalis monetæ, habendum et percipiendum eidem Edmundo et hæredibus suis masculis de corpore suo exeuntibus de prædicto manerio de Gresham ad festa Paschæ et Sancti Michaelis æquis portionibus, una cum sufficienti clausula districtionis in dicto manerio fiendæ pro non solucione ejusdem annui redditus sub forma et condicionibus subsequentibus: videlicet, quod prædictus annuus redditus sit et remaneat in suspenso et non levetur, solvatur, nec percipiatur quovismodo, quousque dictus Johannes Paston vel aliquis hæres suus masculus de corpore suo exiens aliquod donum sive concessionem, immediate vel per remanere, in feodo talliato vel alio statu, de manerio prædicto cum pertinentiis eidem Johanni fiendum, per factum, feoffamentum, cartam vel scriptum, seu alio modo, in parte vel toto, discontinuaverit seu discontinuari fecerit, vel quousque prædictus Johannes Paston, vel aliquis hæres suus masculus de corpore suo exiens, prædictum articulum præsentis voluntatis meæ sic incipiendum "Item ad amorem et favorem," &c. in aliqua ex parte sua perimplendo infregerit, non perfecerit, vel non observaverit, vel sic tam omnibus

et singulis quibus aliquod donum sive concessio, immediate vel per remanere, in feodo talliato vel in aliquo alio statu, de prædicto manerio cum pertinentiis dicto Johanni Paston vel alicui hæredum de corpore suo exeuntium per prædictas personas feoffatas seu feoffandas, hæredes seu assignatos suos, in forma prædicta fiendum per prædictum Johannem Paston vel aliquem hæredum suorum prædictorum discontinuatum fuerit non legitime recontinuatum, quam omnibus et singulis annis quibus articulus prædictus præsentis voluntatis meæ sic incipiens "Item ad amorem et favorem," &c. per prædictum Johannem Paston vel aliquem hæredum suorum prædictorum in aliquo ex parte sua perimplendo confractus, non tentus, aut non impletus, fuerit non debite reformatus. Et per consimile factum suum indentatum dent et concedant prædicto Willelmo filio meo unum annuum redditum triginta librarum consimilis monetæ habendum et percipiendum annuatim prædicto Willelmo et hæredibus suis de corpore suo exeuntibus a tempore quo prædictus Johannes filius meus mortuus fuerit sine hærede masculo de tempore [1] suo exeunte de prædicto manerio de Gresham cum pertinentiis ad festa prædicta æquis portionibus, una cum sufficienti clausula districtionis in eodem manerio fiendæ pro non solutione ejusdem annui redditus sub forma et conditionibus sequentibus, videlicet, quod idem annuus redditus sit et remaneat in suspenso et non levetur nec solvatur, aut percipiatur quovismodo quousque prædictus Johannes Paston, vel Edmundus Paston, vel aliquis hæres masculus de corpore alicujus eorum exiens, aliquod donum sive concessionem, immediate vel per remanere, in feodo talliato vel in alio statu, de eodem manerio cum pertinentiis, aut parcella inde, eidem Johanni vel Edmundo fiendum, per factum, feoffamentum, cartam, vel scriptum, seu alio modo, in parte aut toto, discontinuaverit seu discontinuari fecerit, vel quousque aliquis eorum prædictum articulum præsentis voluntatis meæ sic incipientem "Item ad amorem et favorem," &c. in aliquo ex parte sua perimplendo infregerit, non perfecerit, vel non observaverit. Et per consimile factum suum indentatum dent et concedant prædicto Clementi, filio meo, unum annuum redditum triginta librarum consimilis monetæ, habendum et annuatim percipiendum prædicto Clementi, filio meo, et hæredibus de corpore suo exeuntibus a tempore quo uterque prædictorum Johannis Paston et Edmundus (*sic*) Paston mortuus fuerit sine hærede masculo de corpore suo exeunte de prædicto manerio [2] de Gresham ad festa prædicta æquis porcionibus, una cum clausula districtionis in forma prædicta, sub forma et condicionibus subsequentibus, videlicet, quod idem annuus redditus sit et remaneat in suspenso, et non levetur, solvatur nec percipiatur quovismodo, quousque prædictus Johannes Paston, vel prædictus Edmundus Paston, vel aliquis masculus de corpore alicujus eorum exiens, vel prædictus

[1] So in MS.
[2] *de prædicto manerio*. These words are repeated in the MS

Willelmus Paston, filius meus, vel aliquis hæres de corpore suo exiens, aliquod donum sive concessionem, immediate vel per remanere,[1] in feodo talliato vel alio statu, dicto Johanni Paston, Edmundo Paston, vel Willelmo Paston, filiis meis, vel eorum alicui fiendum per feoffamentum, cartam vel scriptum, seu alio modo, in parte aut toto discontinuaverit, seu discontinuari fecerit, vel quousque aliquis eorum prædictum articulum præsentis voluntatis meæ sic incipientem "Item ad amorem," &c. in aliquo ex parte sua perimplendo infregerit, non fecerit, vel non observaverit. Et per consimile factum suum indentatum dent et concedant prædictæ Elizabeth unum annuum redditum triginta librarum consimilis monetæ, habendum et percipiendum eidem Elizabeth et hæredibus de corpore suo exeuntibus a tempore quo uterque prædictorum Johannis et Edmundi filiorum meorum mortuus erit sine hærede masculo de corpore suo exeunte, et uterque prædictorum Willelmi et Clementis, filiorum meorum, mortuus fuerit sine hærede de corpore suo exeunte de prædicto manerio de Gresham ad festa prædicta æquis porcionibus, una cum clausula districtionis in forma prædicta, forma et condicionibus subsequentibus, videlicet, quod idem annuus redditus sit et remaneat in suspenso et non levetur, solvatur, nec percipiatur quovismodo, quousque prædictus Johannes Paston aut prædictus Edmundus Paston, vel aliquis hæres masculus de corpore alicujus eorum exiens, vel quousque prædictus Willelmus Paston seu prædictus Clemens, filii mei, vel aliquis hæres de corpore alicujus eorum exiens . . . . . sive concessionem, immediate vel per remanere, in feodo talliato vel alio statu, dictis Johanni Paston, Edmundo Paston, Willelmo Paston, et (?) Clementi Paston, vel alicui eorum, fiendum, per factum, feoffamentum, cartam vel scriptum, seu alio modo, in parte aut toto . . . . manerio . . . . . discontinuari fecerit, vel quousque aliquis eorum prædictum articulum præsentis voluntatis meæ sic incipientem "Item ad amorem," &c. in aliquo ex parte sua perimplendo infregerit, non perfecerit, vel non observaverit. Item, volo quod [si ?] aliquis prædictorum Johannis, Edmundi, Willelmi, et Clementis, filiorum meorum, ante dictam ætatem suam xviij. annorum obierit, quod tunc prædictæ personæ feoffatæ seu feoffandæ, eorum hæredes et assignati, patiantur et permittant prædictos Robertum Clere, Edmundum Clere, Johannem [Pagrave], Willelmum Bakton, et Johannem Damme, vel duos eorum per communem assensum eorum quinque, prædictam porcionem terrarum et tenementorum prædicto sic obeunti, ut prædictum est, dandam et concedendam occupare et exitus et proficua inde percipere et habere quousque ille qui proxime post mortem dicti sic obeuntis juxta effectum præsentis voluntatis dictam portionem haberet et teneret fuerit ætatis xviij. annorum plene completorum, et tunc infra quadra-

[1] *vel per remanere*, repeated in MS.

ginta dies proximo tunc sequentes postquam racionabiliter fuerint requisiti, per scripta sua indentata dimittant, liberent, et assignent eandem porcionem cum pertinentiis ipsi qui, ut prædicitur, tunc juxta hanc voluntatem meam porcionem illam haberet et teneret, habendam et tenendam sibi in forma prædicta. Et si prædicti Robertus Clere, Edmundus Clere, Johannes Pagrave, Willelmus Bakton, et Johannes Damme, vel dicti duo eorum eadem exitus et proficua disponant et distribuant in solucione debitorum quæ me debere contingat, et reformacione et satisfactione mesprisionum et extortionum, si quas fecerim, et pro animabus prædictis in forma prædicta per discretionem prædictæ Agnetis et executorum meorum. Item, volo quod prædicta Elizabeth filia mea habeat ducentas libras legalis monetæ ad maritagium suum si ipsa per avisamentum prædictæ Agnetis et executorum meorum maritetur. Proviso semper quod eadem Elizabeth pari sexu et ætate in bona et competenti consanguinitatis linea maritata sit, et per maritagium illud habeat statum sufficientem et securum in lege sibi et viro suo et hæredibus de corporibus suis exeuntibus, si fieri poterit, seu saltem ad totam vitam suam, in terris et tenemetis valoris quadraginta librarum per annum ad minus. Et si eadem Elizabeth antequam maritata fuerit, obierit, quod tunc dictæ pecuniæ summa pro maritagio ejus limitata in solucione debitorum quæ me debere contingat, et in reformacione et satisfactione mesprisionum et extorcionum, si quas fecerim, et pro animabus prædictis fideliter distribuatur, per discretionem prædictæ Agnetis et executorum meorum. In cujus rei testimonium ego præfatus Willelmus Paston præsentibus sigillum meum apposui. Datum tricesimo primo die Januarii anno regni Regis Henrici Sexti post Conquestum vicesimo secundo.

Probata fuerunt prædicta testamentum et ultima voluntas coram nobis, Alexandro Prowet, decretorum inceptore, ac reverendissimi in Christo patris et domini, domini Johannis, permissione Divina Cantuariensis archiepiscopi commissario generali, &c., vicesimo quarto die mensis Novembris anno Domini millesimo CCCCmo xliiijto et legitime pronunciatum pro eisdem, administratioque omnium bonorum &c. honestæ mulieri, Agneti, relictæ dicti defuncti, primitus protestanti (et protestata fuit palam, publice et expresse, judicialiter coram nobis quod voluit agere et petere partem sibi de jure et consuetudine in hac parte debitam, in casu quo præfatus defunctus in testamento sive ultima voluntate quoad æquivalenciam partis hujusmodi minime ordinavit et disposuit), ac discretis viris Johanni, filio dicti defuncti dum vixit, Willelmo Bakton et Johanni Damme, executoribus in eodem testamento nominatis, sub forma protestationis dictæ Agnetis commissa extitit in debita juris forma; ac præfati executores habent crastinum Purificationis Beatæ Mariæ Virginis proximo futurum ad exhibendum inventarium &c. ex præfixione nostra.

985.

A.D. 1479.—John Pyrke.

[Norwich Episcop. Reg., 16.]

Will of John Pyrke, Rector of St. Michael and St. Peter's, Long Stratton.

Leaves to John Paston, Esquire, "unam cistam rubram de sp . . . . ," and some other articles.

Executors, John Paston, Esquire, and William Martin of Long Stratton, each to have for his trouble vj*s.* viij*d.*

Date of will, 8 Sept. 1479. Proved 13 Nov. 1479 by John Paston alone.

986.

A.D. 1482, 4 Sept.—Robert Paston of Wiveton.

[Norwich Archdeaconry Reg., vol. i., f. 29, b.]

[I do not know whether this Robert Paston was at all nearly related to the family, whose correspondence is contained in these volumes; but this will and the will of his wife Margaret, which follows, are interesting in themselves, and deserve a place, even on account of the testator's surname.]

In Dei nomine, Amen. Quarto die Septembris Anno Domini Millesimo CCCC^mo^lxxxij^o^, Ego Robertus Paston de Wyveton, compos mentis et sanæ memoriæ meæ existens, condo testamentum meum sive ultimam meam voluntatem in hunc modum: In primis, lego animam meam Deo Omnipotenti et Beatæ Mariæ Virgini et Omnibus Sanctis, corpusque meum sepeliendum ubicunque Deus disposuerit. Item, lego summo altari de Weveton prædicto pro decimis meis oblitis et male compensatis, xx*d.* Item, Gildæ Beatæ Mariæ ibidem, xij*d.* Item, Gildæ Sancti Johannis Baptistæ ibidem, xij*d.* Item, lumini super pelvem coram Crucifixo ibidem, viij*d.* Item, lego lumini de *le Torchys* ibidem, vj*d.* Item, reparacioni capellæ Beatæ Mariæ in cimiterio ibidem, vj*d.* Item, campanis in campanili ibidem, viij*d.* Item, reparacioni capellæ Sanctæ Trinitatis super Pontem, vj*d.* Item, volo quod Margaretta uxor mea habeat sibi et assignatis suis meam partem cujusdam navis vocatæ *le Cyrlys*, cum omni apparatu prædictæ parti navis pertinenti et prædictam partem navis prædicta Margareta sumptibus suis reparabit. Item, volo quod prædicta Margareta uxor mea habeat ad terminam vitæ suæ messuagium meum cum omnibus pertinentiis, commoditatibus, utensilibus, et necessariis prædicto messuagio concernentibus; et post decessum

prædictæ Margaretæ volo ut prædictum messuagium meum vendetur, et de pecunia inde proveniente volo quod Alicia filia mea ad conjugium semen habeat v. marcas : Et si contingat quod prædicta Alicia obiret antequam conjuncta fuerit, tunc volo quod prædictas marcas executores disponant in operibus caritatis in ecclesia Wyveton prædicto . . . . . Item, volo cum residua pecuniæ de prædicto messuagio provenientis . . . . . ad celebrandum in ecclesia de Weveton prædicta pro anima mea et anima dictæ Margaretæ [&c.] . . . . . Et requiro in nomine Jesu feoffatos meos ut ipsi faciant legitimum statum ei vel eis qui mesuagium prædictum adquirere voluerit aut voluerint sine contradictione sive impedimento aliquibus. Item, lego Willelmo Wynterton, iij*s.* iiij*d.* Item, lego nepoti meo [*no name*] unam togam, unam deploidam, unum par caligarum ad disposicionem Margaretæ uxoris meæ.—The rest of his goods to be disposed of by his executors at their discretion for the good of his soul.

Executors—his wife Margaret and Edmund Shotery, clerk.

Proved at Cley, 9 Oct. 1482.

987.

A.D. 1484.—Margaret Paston.

[Norwich Archdeaconry Reg., vol. i., f. 76, a.]

In Dei nomine, Amen. Ego, Margareta Paston de Weveton, vidua, bonæ memoriæ existens die Lune xx. post Dominicam in Albis [1] anno Domini nostri 1484to, condo testamentum meum ac ultimam voluntatem in hunc modum. In primis, lego et commendo animam meam Deo Omnipotenti, Redemptori meo, Beatæ Mariæ Virgini, et Omnibus Sanctis celestis curiæ, corpus quemeum sepeliendum in cimiterio ecclesiæ Beatæ [*no name*] de Weveton prædicta, cujus summo altari lego pro decimis meis non solutis, xx*d.* Item, lego fraternitati Gildæ Sancti Joannis Baptistæ unum pannum le drapre. Item, lego pictuis (*sic*) porticæ ejusdem ecclesiæ, xiij*s.* iv*d.*, quæ summa remanet in manibus Johannis Andrews. Item, lego emendacioni ecclesiæ prædictæ, iij*s.* iv*d.* Item, reparacioni campanarum ibidem, vj*d.* Item, lego lumini Altaris, iiij*d.* Item, lumini *le Torchys*, vj*d.* Item, lego reparacioni capellæ Beatæ Mariæ ibidem, vj*d.* Item, lego fraternitati Beatæ Mariæ de Salthous, xx*d.*, et Summo Altari ibidem, xij*d.*

1 So in MS., but the date would be more intelligible without the numeral "xx." *Dominica in Albis* means sometimes Whitsunday, sometimes the Sunday after Easter. The Monday following would in the one case be 7 June, in the other 19 April, in 1484.

Item, reparacioni campanarum ibidem, iiij*d*. Item, lumini Aratrub'm (?), iv*d*. Item, volo quod messuagium meum cum omnibus terris dicto messuagio pertinentibus vendatur per meos executores, et summa pecunie inde (*sic*) dispensatur per eosdem in celebratione missarum per bonum presbyterum scolarem celebratorem in ecclesia Beate Marie de Weveton predicta pro anima mea et animabus omnium parentum et benefactorum meorum. Item, lego Alicie Pastard quin[que] marcas de dicto messuagio receptas. Et si contigerit ipsum Aliciam discedere ab hac luce, tunc volo quod Alicia filia mea habeat in le 33*s*. 4*d*., et residuum remaneat executoribus meis. Item, volo quod feoffati mei deliberent totam seisinam et possessionem de et in messuagio prædicto, cum omnibus suis pertinentiis [*blot*] qui requisiti fuerint per executores meos. Residuum omnium bonorum meorum non legatorum do et lego et concedo meis executoribus ut ipsi ordinent et disponant pro salute anime mee et animabus benefactorum meorum, prout melius Deo Omnipotenti placeat, quos ordino et constituo Edmundum Shortere, clericum et Johannem Say meos executores et legitimos attornatos. In cujus rei testimonium præsentibus sigillum apposui.

Proved at Cley, 14 June, anno prædicto.

988.

A.D. 1487, 18 May.—Dame Elizabeth Browne.

[Register Milles 12.]

In Dei nomine, Amen. The xviijth' day of the moneth of May in the yere of Our Lord God m[il]ccccclxxxvij. and in the secund yere of the reign of King Henry the vij. I, Dame Elisabeth late wife of Sir George Brown, Knyght, being of hoole mynde and in good memorye, thanked be Allmyghty God, make and ordeign this my present testament and last will yn maner and forme folowing, that is to say :—

First. I bequeith my soul to Allmyghty God, Our Lady Saint Mary and to all the Holy Company of Hevon ; and my body to be buried withyn the churche of the Blak Freris within Ludgate with my forsaid housband Sir George ; to the whiche place I bequeith xx*li*. for my said housbandes soul and myne, our fadres and modres soules and for all Cristen soules to be praid for. And for xiij. trentalles of Saint Gregory to be said and songyn for us and thaym by the freris of the said place, as in diriges and masses with all other observaunces belonging to the same, in maner and forme folowing ; That is to wete, in the day or morow after my decesse vij. trentallis ; and every weke folowing unto

my monthes mynde oon trentall, and iij. trentalles at my monthes mynde biside the solempne dirige and masse that is to be requyred for me at that tyme. And I charge myne executours to see that the premisses be done and performed, and also the said feeris to feche me from the place where I die unto thair said place where I have lymyted afore to be buried. Also, I wull that as sone as my body is buryed and th'expenses therof done and paid that myn executours provide and see that my dettes be contented and paid. Also, I bequeith to the vicar of the church of Dorking in the county of Surrey for my forsaid housbandes soul and myne, our faders and modres, and for all the soules that we be bound unto, to be praid for within the yer after my discesse, as in diriges and masses to be said or song by hym or his deputie and to have us specially in remembraunce in thayr memento by oon hole yer, xx*s*. Also, I bequeith to the reparacion of the forsaid churche of Dorking xx*s*. Also, I bequeith to the parson of Saint Albans in Wodstrete within London for diriges and masses to be said or song by hym or his deputie, in like wise as the vicar of Dorking is charged, as is afore rehersed, xx*s*. Also I bequeith to the reparacion of the stepull of the said churche of Saint Albane xx. solidos. Also, I bequeith to the prisoners of Newgate and Ludgate, Kinges Bench and Marshallsee, to every of those places to be praid for, xx*d*. Also, I bequeith to bedred folkes and other pour householders, aswell men as women, dwelling within London and without in the suburbis of the same, and moste specially souche as have knowen me and I thaym, xl*s*., as by the discrecions and advises of myne executours it shall be thought best to be done. Moreover I geve and biqueith to my doughter Mary, to the promocion of her mariage, all my plate and other juelles, with all myne hole apparell, and all my stuff of houshold being within my dwelling place or any other within the citee of London or suburbes of the same, that is to say:—First, a standing cupp of silver gilt, chaced with plompes, weyeng with the cover, knoppe and devise xlij. unces *et dimidium*. Item, a standing cupp of silver and gilt, chaced with flowres, weying with the cover, the knopp and devise, xxvij. unces *et dimidium*. A playn standing cupp of silver gilt, weing with the cover, the knopp and the devise xxx. unces. A standing cupp of silver and gilt, chaced with half plompes, weying with the cover, knopp and devise xx. unces and *dimidium*. A playn standing cupp of silver gilt weying with cover and the knoppe and the devyse xxvij. unces and an half. A standyng cuppe of silver and gilt, weyng with the cover, the knoppe and the devyse xxvj. unces. A saltseler of sylver and gilte, weyng with the cover, the knoppe and the devyse xxiij. unces. A saltseler of sylver and gilt, without a cover, weying xxij. unces and an halfe. A litill saltseler of sylver and gilt, weying with the cover and the knoppe and the devyse xv. unces and an half. A litell saltseler of sylver and gilt, without the cover, wey-

ing viij. unces and an halfe. And vij. bolles of sylver, parcelles gilt, weying iiij.xx. xviij. unces. And ij. peces of sylver with a cover weying xlviij. unces. A dosen and a half of silver sponys weying xxiij. unces, and iij. sponys of silver and gilt weying iij. unces and iij. quartrons, and a long spone of sylver and gilt for ginger, weying j. unce and iij. quartrons. Item, a chafing disshe of sylver weying xxvj. unces. And ij. litell crewettes of sylver weying viij. unces. A chalese of sylver and gilt with the paten, weying xj. unces. An haly water stok of silver with the lid, handill, and spryngill, weying xij. unces. An Agnus with a baleys iij. saphires, iij. perlys with an image of Saint Antony apon it. And a tablet with the Salutacion of Our Lady, and the iij. Kingis of Collayn. A bee with a grete pearl. A dyamond, an emerawde, iij. grete perlys hanging apon the same. A nother bee with a grete perle, with an emerawde and a saphire, weying ij. unces iij. quarters. A pece of the Holy Crosse, crossewise made, bordured with silver aboute; iij. brode girdilles, oone of tawny silke with bokill a pendaunt, another of purpill with bokyll and pendaunt, and the iijde. of purpill damaske with bokell and pendaunt. And vj. barres of silver and gilt, and iij. brode harnysed girdilles, oone white tisshew, another red tysshew gold, and the iijde a playne grene coorse. A muskeball of gold weying halfe an unce, and ij. bokilles and ij. pendauntes of gold, oone playne and the other pounsyd, weying an unce and a quarter. And a harnysed girdill enameled with rowsclare, weying halfe an unce. A dymysoynt[1] with a rubye and an amatyste weying j. unce and an halfe. An harnysed girdill of golde of damaske with a long pendaunt, and a bokill of golde chekkyd, weying j. unce. A grete bed of a state of verdure, and a counterpoynt to the same. And iiij. curteyns of grene tartron. A grete federbed, a bolster, and vj. fetherbeddys over woren, vj. bolsters. And iiij. mattarasses, lytyll over woren, xij. pellowes of downe, v. newe carpettys of ij. ellys in lengeth and yarde and halfe brode. iij. fyne pelow beres, and a grete counterpoynt of tapstery werk of v. yardes and a quarter longe and iiij. yardes brode. A hanging for a chamber of grene say borduryd with acrons of xxxv. yerdes longe; a whyte spervyour; ij. counterpoyntes, an hanging bed, with a lyon thereupon; and the valence white, grene, and red, and iiij. blew courtens to the same. And two coverlettes with lyons; a blak testour for a bed, with iiij. blak curtens, and vj. pecys of blak hanging to the same; ij. cusshens of blak velvet; a cusshyn of blak damask; a cusshen of grene worstede; a long cusshen of blewe saten figure. A blak coveryng for a bed of borde alisaunder. And xj. peces of grene saye, borduryd with acorns, to hang with a chambre. A vestment of blak velwet with orfrayes, browderyd with my saide husbondys armes and myne; an awbe; j. chesyppill, with a stole, and all that belongeth therto; ij.

[1] A metal facing for a girdle.

corporas cases of cloth of gold; j. olde vestment; an awbe; an awter clothe wyth the image of Our Lorde; a corporas case of blewe cloth of golde. A nother of blewe saten and russet. An awter clothe of staynyd werke. And iij. stenyd clothes with imagis in them to hang a chapell. ij. awter clothes of white sylke with red crosses, and ij. curtens with white frengis and red. And iiij. curtens, ij. of rayed sarsenet, and two of grene. An awter clothe; a litell pece of grene tartron; a payer of fustyans of iiij. breddys iij. yerdys iij. quarters long. A paire of fyne shetys overworne of iiij. yerdes brede. An hede shete and iij. payer of newe shetys of iij. levis, of iij. ellys and an half long. And two payer of shetys of ij. levis and an half long. And iij. hed shetys of ij. bredys, and vj. paier of shetys over worne of ij. levis. And vj. paier of houshold shetis. And two paier of wollen blankettes. And a violet gowne, furryd with martrons. A blak gowne furryd with gray. A blak gowne furryd with white. A blak gowne furryd with martrons. And a nyght gowne of blak furryd with martrons. A kirtill of tawny chamlet. A purfill of ermyns of ij. skynne depeth, and iij. yardys and an half long. A purfill of martrons of j. skynne depeth, and iiij. yardis long. A purfill of shankes of ij. skynne deppeth, and iiij. yardis long. A bonet of poudrid ermyns. And a pece of cloth of golde with dropis, which was of a duplade. And a dosen of diaper napkyns of flour de lyce werke and crownes. And a dosen and a half of naptkyns of playne clothe with blew pelowers, and a pece of clothe of diaper werke to make with a dosen naptkyns. A bordecloth of floure de lice werk and crownes of x. yardis and an half long, and iij. yardis brode. And a nother bordecloth of flour de lyce werk and crownes, viij. yardes and a half long, ij. yardes and a quarter brode; a towell of diaper ot flower delice werke and crownys of xx^ti^ yardys long, and iij. quarters brode. Another towell of flower delice werke and crownys of iij. quarters brode and xviij. yardes long. A nother of latise werke and diaper of iij. quarter brede xiiij. yerdes di' long. Another towell of iiij. greynys, and a fret of viij. yerdes di' long. A nother towell of latise werk and crownys vj. yerdes and di' long and iij. quarters brede. And two towellis of great diaper werke, iij. yerdes and a quarter long and iij. quarter brode. And a pece of new creste clothe conteygnyng xxiij. ellys. And two towellys of great diaper werkes of xiij. yerdes long and iij. quarter in brede. And vij. grete cofers, v. chestis, ij. almaryes like a chayer, and a blak cofer bounden with iron. vj. yoyned stoles, iiij. kaskettys, v. litell joynyd stoles. A litill table, ij. yerdes long. A rounde table, ij. trestelles, ij. garnysshe and di' of pewter vessell counterfete, wherof j. garnysshe and di' is newe; and vj. great kandelstikkis newe of laton, and iiij. newe bellyd kandelstikkis, ij. litill kandelstikkis, vij. basens of pewater, and v. brasse pannys, of the which oon is xvj. galons, and two of them

of viij. galons a pece, and the other ij. more lesse. A grete standing chafer of laton with a lyon apon the lydde, ij. chafers of brasse, and ij. litill brasse pottys, ij. grete cobardys, and ij. other cobardys more and lesse, ij. fyer pannys, a lityll skelet. A ladill and a scomer of laton, ij. colondyrs, ij. spyttys, ij. dreping pannes of iron, iij. dressing knyfys, ij. lechyng knyfys, ij. choppyng knyfys. A tryvet. A brasen morter with a pestell of iron, ij. stone morters, ij. gredyrons, j. payer of potte hokys, a flesshe hoke, and a kolerake. Provydid alwey that myn executours by the advyse of myn overseers ordeigne and put in safegarde to be kept after my discease in to som religious place unto the day of my said doughters mariage, and to the behofe and promocyon of the same, all and every part of the forsaid plate and juelx with all other stuffe of houshold by me to her, as is abovewritten, yoven and bequethed, except souche stuffe as canne not be kept from mowghtes, which I will she have the rule and governaunce of for the safegarde of the same and for her wele. And if my saide doughter Mary dye unmaryed, then I yeve and bequethe all the forsaid plate with all other stuffe of housholde to my soon Mathewe her brother. And if it fortune that he dye unmaryed, as God forfende, then I yeve and bequeth all and every part of my forsaid plate, juelx, and stuffe of housholde unto my soon Sir Edward Ponyngis. And yef it fortune the said Edward to dye, as God defende, that then all the forsaid juelx and other stuffe above written, except a playne standing cuppe of sylver and gilt, with the cover, the knoppe, and the devyse of the same with gryffons hede in the botom wrought apon blewe asure, weying xxvj. uncis, which I geve to my doughter in lawe, Dame Isabell Ponyngis, to be dyvydyd by th'advice of the overseers of this my present testament and last wille, and evynly to be departed unto Antony Browne and Robert Browne, my brethern in lawe, they to do with it thair fre wille. And as touching myne Agnus, tablettes with dyamondys, saphires, perlys, grete and small crosses, gurdillis, dymyseyntes, gownys, with all other thingis longing to myne apparayle, as is above written, yef it fortune my said doughter Mary decease, I geve and bequethe all and every part of it to my kynnyswoman Margaret Hasslake. And if the said Margaret dye, that then all the said apparell particularly written before remaigne to my said doughter-in-lawe Dame Isabell Ponyngys. Also xx. marc which I lent unto my son Sir Edward Ponynges, I woll that it be distributyd by the discrecion of myn executours and overseers among souche as been knowen my servauntys at the day of my discease. The residue of all my singuler goodes, catallys, and juellys after my dettys payde, and my bequestes performyd and fulfyllyd, and burying done, I geve and fully bequeth to my sonnys, Ser Edward Ponyngis and Mathew Browne, and theym to dispose and do theire fre wille, to pray and to do for my soule as they wolde I sholde do for them, as they will aunswer

afore God. And of this my testament and last wille I make and ordeigne myn executours my forsaid sonnes, Ser Edward Ponyngys and Mathew Browne, and theire supervysours Humphrey Conynges-by and Richard Tuke. And I bequeth to every of myne executours for thair labour lx*s.*, and to every of myne overseers for thair labours xl*s.* In Wittenesse hereof, I the said Dame Elizabeth to this my present testment and last wille have put my seale. Yoven at London, the day and yere abovesaide.

Probatum fuit suprascriptum testamentum coram domino apud Lamehith xxvj^to^ die mensis Junii, anno Domini supradicto, ac approbatum &c. Et commissa fuit administratio &c., Matheo Browne, filio ejusdem et executori &c. de bene &c. Ac de pleno inventario &c., citra festum Sancti Petri quod dicitur *ad Vincula*, reservata potestate committendi &c., Edwardo Ponynges militi, executori &c.

A.D. 1496, 7 Sept.—William Paston.

[Register Horne, 12.]

In Dei nomine, Amen. The vij^th^ day of the moneth of Septembre in the yere of Our Lord God m^l^CCCClxxxxvj., I, William Paston of London, gentilman, being of hooll mynde and in good memory, laude and praysing be unto Almighti God, make and ordeigne this my present testament and last wille in maner and fourme folowing, that is to sey:—Furst, I geve and bequeith my soule unto my saide Lorde God, to our blessed Lady Sainte Marye Virgyne, and to all the holy companye of Heven. And I will that my body be buried in the church of Blak Frerez, in London, at the north ende of the high altar there by my Lady Anne, late my wife. Also, I will that there be yeven unto the saide church of Blak Frires, where my saide body shall lye, to be praide for, and for the place of my saide burying to have a large stone upon the saide Lady Anne and me, a convenient rewarde by th'advise and discrecion of myne executours underwriten. Also, I will that all my dettes be wele and truely contente and paide. Also, I wille that xx*li.* in money be geven and disposed for my soule and all Christen soules in dedes of pitee and charitee the day of my saide burying, that is to sey:—emonges pouer people and prisoners within the citee of London and withoute. Also I will that I have a preste of honest conversacion to synge bothe for me, and for suche as I am chargid to do syng for at Cambrige, as my servant, Thomas Andrewe, can shew by the space of viij. yeres. Also, I will that for every wronge by me done in my life tyme a dewe recompence be made there fore by th'enformacion of my saide servante, Thomas Andrew, in that behalf. Also, I will that all my landes and tenementes with th'appurtenances be devyded

bytwene my ij. doughters, Agnes and Elizabeth, by the discresion of my executours underwritten, and after th'enformacion of my saide servaunte, Thomas Andrew, to whome I have shewid my entent and mynde in the same manye tymes, and often to have to theym and to the heires of theire ij. bodies lawfully begoten. Also, I wille that all the revennuyes of my fee symple landes, over and a bove the reparacions and charges of the same that shalbe due at Mychelmas next after my deceasce be takyn of my tenauntes and fermours there by favoure, and that the same revenues go to the contentacion and payment of my saide dettes assone as it can be convenyently gadred and levied, &c. Also, I will that none of my tenantes nor fermers, suche as be of grete age and fallith in poverte, be in any wise vexid or t[r]oublid after my deceasce by my executours underwritten for no maner of olde dettes due unto me before the day of my deces. Also, I will that nether my heires, executours, nor non other person for theim, nor in theire names, in any wise vex, sue, or trouble the saide Thomas Andrew, my servaunte, after my deceasce of or for any maner of rekenynges or other maters bitwene hym and me in all my life tyme, but utterly thereof I discharge hym and will, and will that he be therof acquyte and discharged in that behalve as I have shewid and declared in my life unto my doughter Elizabeth, Mastres Hide, Master Ursewik, Archedecon of Richemonde, Master Doctor Myddelton, Master Thomas Madies, chapeleyn to my Lorde Cardinall,[1] Master John Shaa, Alderman of London, Master Reede, Master Christofer Mildelton, proctours of the courte of Canterbury, and many other honorable folkis, and to my servauntes in my life tyme, consideryng that he hathe ben my trewe and feithfull servant these xix. yeres or more, in which seasone he hath had dyvers grete paynfull besynes and labours in my causis, by whose gode policie and meanes I have purchased moche of my saide fe symple landes, which also canne geve best enformacion how all suche landes as I have purchased stonden, and what consciens is there in, and howe every thyng shalbe ordred. Also, I will that the churche of Saynte Petre, in Wodenorton have a hole vestyment of the price of v. marc. Also, I will that Elizabeth Crane be wele maried at my costis, or ellis by the menes of my doughters, unto suche a personne as may dispende by yere xx. marc, or ellis to a gode marchaunt or other craftisman. Item, I will that Christofer Talbot be treuly contentid and paied of his yerely annuyte of v. merke by yere duryng his life. Item, I will that Thomas Dokkyng have surely his annuyte of xls. by yere duryng his life. Item, I wille that the bargayne of Adam Sowter be recompensid after th'enformacion had of my saide servaunte, Thomas Andrew. Also, I will that every of my servauntes be rewarded for theire good and diligent labourc and attendance had a bowte me after the discresion of my

[1] Cardinal Morton.

executours underwritten. Also, I will that all suche of my godes moveable in Warwikes Inne, and in my place callid Castre Clere, in Norffolk, and in my place in Norwiche, be solde by the discresion of my executours, tawarde and for the contentacion and payment of my saide dettes and performance of this my present will. Also, I will that the vicar of Fyncham be recompensid of his bargayne betwene hym and me after th'enformacion of the saide Thomas Andrewe. Item, I will that all my servauntes, suche as be behynde of their wages and dueties, be trewly content and paied. Also, I will that all other my godes not bequethid, this my will fulfilled, my dettes paied, and all my wronges recompensed by th'enformacion of the saide Thomas Andrew, be departid bytwixte my ij. doughter beforesaide after the discresion of my saide executours. And also, for as moche as I have not sufficient redy money, and that my dettis cannot be redely levied, therfore I will that money be made of all suche plate as I have for the haste of contentacion of my dettes that I owe of my buriallis. And of this my present testament and laste will I make and ordeyne and constitute my executours the moste reverend fadre in God my Lorde Cardinall, the right high and myghty Prynces, my lady the Kynges modre, my Lord Dawbeney, and Sir Edwarde Poynynges, Knyght, my nevew, whome I hartely beseche in executyng and performyng this my laste will to do and dispose concernyng the same in every thyng as they shall thynke best to the pleasure of Almyghty God, and for the helthe of my sowle and all Cristen sowles.

Probatum fuit suprascriptum testamentum coram domino apud Lamehith, xxviij° die mensis Novembris, Anno Domini Millesimo CCCC° nonagesimo sexto, juramento Thomæ Andrew et Laurencii Canwike, testium, quibus Thomæ et Lawrencio commissa fuit administracio per viam intestati, pro eo et ex eo quod executores in suo testamento nominati ex certis causis legitimis refutarunt, de bene et fideliter administrand' eadem juxta et secundum vires ipsius defuncti testamentum sive ultimam voluntatem, ac primo de solvend' æs alienum in quo idem defunctus hujusmodi mortis suæ tempore extitit obligatus, deinde legata in hujusmodi suo testamento contenta, quatenus bona et debita &c., ad sancta &c.

A.D. 1504, 24 Nov.—Margaret Paston.

[Reg. Norvic. "Rix" f. 107.]

I, Margaret Paston, widow, "late wife of Edmond Paston, Squier. . . . . 24° Nov. MCCCCCIV. . . . . my sinful bodie to be buried in the chyrche of Our Lady in Iterynghame."

"Item, to the Hey Awter of the chirche of Sharington, vj*s.* viij*d*

"Item, to the reparacion of the said churche, xx*s.*

"Item, to the reparacion of the chirch of Manington, xs.
"Item, to the reparacion of the chirch of Itteringham, iijs. ivd.
"Item, to the Hey Awter of Itteringham, iijs. ivd.
"Item, to the Gilde of Oure blessid Ladi there, iijs. ivd.
"Item, to the Heigh Awter of Saxthorpe, ijs.
"Item, to the Heigh Awter of the chirche of Little Baningham, iijs. iiijd.
"Item, to the Heigh Awter of the chirche of Woolterton, ijs.
"Item, to the Heigh Awter of the chirche of Wood Dalling, iijs. iiijd.
"Item, to the reparacion of heigh way in Woolterton, vs.
"Item, I will that my son William Lumnor have c. sheep. xxiij. nete, x. quarters wheat, xx. quarters barley, x. quarters oats. and as many horse, cartes, plowghes, and harowghes, with alle her apparell, as shall extende to the valu of vili. xiijs. iiijd., beside alle the foresaide shepe, &c." . . . . in recompense of all goods . . . . that Thomas Brigge, late my husbande, by his testament and last will bequeathed or gave to the said William Lumnor . . . . He to have all the hangings in the grey chamber over the parlour within the manor place of Manington, and the great bed with the covering and hangings, "which is of tapestrie worke;" . . . . also all the hangings of the halle and parlour, "with the falte table in the parlure, and all the tables and stooles in the haule, and all the rede hangings of the rede chaumber over the pantry and botry, and a bed of red saye" . . . . . viz., its belongings, pillows, coverlets, &c., &c.
"Item, to the said William Lumner, my son, ij. grete rosting aundernes, iij. spetes, ij. brass pots with all the brewing vessels."
Item, to my daughter, Margaret Browne, "my fruntelet of purpill velvet, my girdill whereof the herneys is silver and gilt, and the corse is of damaske gold, and also my fruntelet of crymsyn velvet."
Item, to my daughter Elizabeth Whymbergh my dymysent silver and gilt, and my corse of crymsyn velvet pirled with gold, and also a fruntlet of crymsyn velvet.
Item, to Margaret Lomnor, my daughter-in-lawe, my prymer clad with grene velvet.
Item, to my daughter, Anne Lomnor, my russet gown pervild with menks, and my best coral bedes conteyning once fifty, and my best bonnett.
Item, to Elizabeth Gayne, xiijs. iiijd., to the bying of a gowne for her.
Item, to my son, John Lomnor, a brass pott, a basin, with an ewer of pewter with a roose of lateyn in the bottom of the said basin, and four platters, and four dishes, and iiij. sawcers of pewter.
Item, to my son, Henry Lomnor, xls.
Item, to my nephew, Thomas Lomnor . . . . a feather bed, &c., &c.

Item, to my nephew, James Lomnor . . . . . a feather bed, &c.

"And all the residue of alle my goodes and catallis, sylver plate, and all my detts to me owing, above not bequeathed nor assigned, I give and bequeath to my son, William Lomnor, whom I ordeine and make my executor," first to pay debts, and distribute the remainder "to the most plesure to God and helthe to my sowle."

Proved at Norwich, 19 May 1505, by William Lumnor.

A.D. 1510, 31 May.—Dame Agnes Paston.

[Register Benet, 29.]

"Dame Agnes Paston, widow, late the wife of Sir John Paston Knight, deceased," makes her will 31 May, A.D. 1510, 2 Hen. VIII. To be buried, if she die in London, in the church of the Black Friars, by her husband John Harvy; or, if she die in Kent, in the parish church in Sondryche. Goods in three chests to be divided among her three sons, George, Thomas, and Edward. Bequeathes to her son George Hervy a pair of large sheets of her own spinning, and all her bedding at Sondryche to her son Thomas Isley. Other bequests to John Palmer of Otteford, to the parson of Brasted, to her daughter Isabel Isley, her cousin Alys Petham, to Margaret Palmer, to Mrs Bygote "with my Lady Marqueys."[1] To her son-in-law William Hatteclyff a basin and ewer, parcel gilt, for 20 marks, if he will give so much for it; otherwise it is to go to her sons George Harvy and Edw. Isley. To her son George a silver salt with a cover, at Leuesham. To her chaplain Sir Robert "the complete bedde within my little draught chambre att Sonderiche," and 10 marks a year for 5 years, to pray for her soul and the souls of John Hervy, Sir John Paston, and John Isley, her husbands. To her son Thomas Isley's children, and her own and her daughter Isabel Hatteclyff's children, 5 marks each. To her son George Hervy "a standing cupp with a kever, silver and gilt with sekylles," and a gold cross. To her daughter Isley a ring with a rebewe. To her son Thomas Isley her gelding. Other bequests to her cousins Margaret Palmer and Thos. Waserer's wife; also to young Potter, the man of law, to Agnes Waserer, and to Eliz. mother to Thomas Waserer's wife, to Joan Julles, William Tidman, to her servant Kyllingworth, to Vincent her housekeeper, to Sir Robert, parish priest of Sonderyche, to Sir William of Nokold. Mr. Robert Scalys parson of Braysted to be overseer of her will; her sons George Harvy and Thos. Isley to be her executors.

Proved at Lambeth, 19 June 1510.

[1] Cecily, widow of Thomas, first Marquis of Dorset

Appendix.

Part III.

NEWLY DISCOVERED LETTERS.

The two previous parts of this Appendix had been already printed, when the Editor was informed of the discovery of a number of MSS. belonging to the Paston Collection in the house of Mr. Frere of Roydon Hall, near Diss, in Norfolk. By the courtesy of the owner, he was permitted to examine them, and found that, besides the long-lost originals of the letters in Fenn's third and fourth volumes, and a considerable number of others of a later date, there were no less than ninety-five unpublished letters of the same period as those contained in the present publication. All of these had evidently been examined by Sir John Fenn, and not a few had been copied by him in his own hand, with fac-similes of the signatures and water-marks; showing that he had at one time thought of including them in his collection, but that upon mature consideration he thought them not of sufficient interest for publication.

For our own part, though we had always hoped to make this collection as complete as possible, we cannot, under the circumstances of the case, attempt to treat these new materials on the same scale as the rest of the correspondence. We must therefore content ourselves with a very few abstracts and copies

of the more interesting of the newly found letters, supplemented by a brief inventory of the whole, arranged in the order of names chiefly of the writers.

992.

A.D. 1449, 28 Feb.

Margaret Paston to John Paston.

Begs him not to be displeased though she be out of the place he left her in; for she heard such tidings that she durst not abide there. Divers of my Lord Moleyns' men said if they might get her they would steal her and keep her in the castle; "and than they said they would that ye should fetch me out. They said it should be but a little heartburning to you." After that I could have no rest till I was here. I did not venture out of the place till I was ready to ride, and no one knew an hour before but the good wife, whom I told that I was coming here to get gear made for me and the children. I beg you will keep secret the cause of my coming away till I see you. I spoke with your mother on my way hither, who offered to let me abide in her place if you wished me to stay in Norwich, and to give me such gear as she could spare till you can be purveyed of a place of your own. Let me know what to do. I should be sorry to dwell so near Grassam as I did, till the matter between you and the Lord Moleyns is settled. Barow said there was no better evidence in England than Lord M. had of Gressam. I said I supposed they were such as William Hasard spoke of, the seals of which were not yet cold, and that you had evidence with seals 200 years older. Do not on any account trust Lord Moleyns and his men, or eat or drink with them, though they speak ever so fair. Roger Foke of Sparham dare not leave his house for the suit Heydon and Wyndham have against him. Watkin Shipdam wishes you to speak to Sir J. Fastolf about the harness you had of him, &c.

Norwich, Friday after Pulver Wednesday.

993.

A.D. 1449? 16 Oct.

James Gresham to [John Paston].

"The King is now into the Marches of Wales, as it is said, to the intent he may be near the country if my Lord of Buckingham,

which is commissioner now in Wales for divers offences done there to the Crown, would sue to have his commission to be enlarged, if he were repyned." It is not known when the King will be in London again, but he is expected here at the beginning of the Parliament. I have your writs of error, but can see nothing wrong. Thos. Denys asked me why you did not follow his suggestion about the removing of the strength at Gresham, and thinks it should be done yet. Francis Costard is not yet well at ease, for his *venire facias* between Will. Prentys and him and Hen. Halman comes in very inopportunely. You had better come hither as soon as possible and get the favor of the sheriff that shall be next year.

London, 16 Oct.

994.

A.D. 1451, 3 Jan.—[W. Wayte] to John Paston.

Blake, the baily of Swaffham, came home from London the Saturday after my Master [Yelverton] departed from you at my Lord of Oxford's. He went straight to my Lord Chancellor and told him "that if the King pardoned Sir Thomas Tudenham and Heydon their issues, that the shire of Norfolk would pay no tax; for what needeth the King for to have the tax of his poor people, when he will not take his issues of these rich extortioners and oppressors of his people? And also he told my Lord Chancellor and many mo lords that if the King pardoned him or granted any *supersedeas*, London should within short time have as much for to do as they had for to keep London Bridge when the Captain [Jack Cade] cam thither; for he told them that there was up in Norfolk, ready to rise, 5000 Commons, if they have not execution of the *oyer and terminer*." When my Lord Chancellor heard this he was very glad, and made Blake say it before the King and all his Lords, "that they blessed him whanne they herden yt, and if he had not said this they should have had a *supersedeas* and pardon." The Lord Scales maintains Sir Thos. Tudenham as far as he may, but he will not avow it. But he will come down to the *oyer and terminer* "sekerly," to make an end between Tudenham and Swaffham. So my master understands that if Swaffham and he were accorded, he would set little by Norwich. He begs you therefore to speak to the Mayor and his brethren that there be a sufficient fellowship at Lenn, and that there be made a great noise both of Tudenham and Heydon. For this day the Parson of Swaffham was with my master, and they are agreed to have their lodging at the Friars Minors at Lenn, and will assent to no end, except the city agree to it, &c. My master should be informed at Walsingham on Friday next how the Mayor and you be accorded, &c.

Rougham, Sunday after New-Year's Day.

995.

A.D. 1454, 8 April.

"Your woful Servant Denyes" to Master Paston.

"Forasmuch as adversity and prosperity both lie in the disposition of O [*i.e.*, One] Man above, I thank God, and let you wit that I stand yet in as great trouble as ever I did, or greater." Implores him to be his good master. One Jas. Cook, his own servant, is hired by Wat Ingham, and has falsely accused Denyes and his wife of setting up bills against Lords, &c.

The Fleet, 8 April.

996.

Friar Brackley to John Paston.

Magistro meo venerabili Johanni Paston Armigero detur.

Dixi enim magistro meo gardiano ante meum exitum quod magistri mei generosi et amici alii vellent me juvare pro die Jovis pro pascendo doctores, patres ac cæteros confratres nostri provincialis capituli; et in exitu meo consentire noluit, quia Gurnay suus socius et procurator, frater juvenis nostri conventus et unus sacerdos simplex, curatus de Worsted, et Bukle, cocus, super se diem prædictum assumpserunt. Et ego dixi, "Olim fuit modus quod unus ejusdem loci magister esset præferendus in tali diei eleccione. Sed unum scitote, si magistri mei certi generosi et ego cum eis habere non potuerimus diem quem elegimus, certe pro hoc tempore nullum alium diem habere volumus." Utinam placeret vobis ut magistra mea, uxor vestra, vellet mittere pro magistro gardiano, et dicere sibi quod ipsa quæsivit a me qualem diem ego haberem pro fratribus pascendis in tempore capituli et quod ego dixi me habiturum illum vel certe nullum aliter. Quæcumque ego potero procurare de pecuniis seu victualibus ego singula venderem et expendere vellem in reparacionibus, &c. Rogo vos ex caritate ut magistræ meæ matri vestræ ac aliis amicis vestris vobis notis, insinuetis nostram indigenciam pro faciliori relevamine capituli provincialis. Sic enim ad vestri et mei magistri mei specialem instanciam præsencialiter habere residenciam teneo, ut alia loca pro præsenti negocio accedere non valeam, &c. Non plura pro præsenti sunt calamo præsentanda, nisi quod vos, vestros et vestra Jesus Christus graciose conservet in prosperis et graciosius dirigat in agendis. Amen.

Recommendetis me, si placeat, uxori et matri et confratribus vestris W., &c. et domino meo Rectori de Blofeld, utinam de Hadle, &c.; cui dicatis quod hac nocte jacuit Colinus Gallicus cum pulcherima Amasia sua in camera conducta per eum, &c. Utinam nunquam vigeat, &c. Ipse proponit in vestra præsentia dicere dicto rectori satis perversa verba. Et spero quod dominus Rector faciat de sua speciali gratia meum negocium per Ricardum famulum suum crastina die summo mane expediendum, quia dies ista est dies ultima, &c. Ex manerio de Castre, Sabbato circa tempus prandii festinantissime.

Magister meus[1] valde gavisus est quando audivit de vobis quomodo scienter, audacter, viriliter et veraciter respondistis adversariis vestris coram Domino Cancellario aliisque dominis, &c.

Vester præ cæteris orator,

F. J. B., Minorum minimus.

997.

A.D. 1460 [Oct.]

Friar Brackley to [John Paston].

Jesus, Maria, &c. Reverende domine, si contingat ut sitis Londoniæ hoc termino in principio parliamenti, hæc poteritis in secretis dicere domino Warwik ac domino Cancellario, quomodo Johannes W.[2] apud Felbrigg jacet cum manu forti contra pacem domini Regis et patriæ, qui quantum valere potest est hostis publicus et inimicus capitalis domini Regis et suorum fidelium dominorum utilitatem rei publicæ et communitatem Angliæ diligentium, pro quo taliter esset modo indilate et cum omni festinacione possibili providendum quod esset commissio directa sub pœna ligeanciæ et pœna mortis et privatione bonorum vicecomiti, domino M. Stapilton, domino W. Chambirleyn, W. Yelverton justiciario, W. Calthorp, Johanni Twyre, Johanni Geney, T. Gurnay, Johanni Fyncham, Johanni Yelverton Juniori, Edmundo Bokynham, Johanni Gros, Johanni Dam, Johanni Lomenour, Jacobo Arblaster, T. Denys, ut assistant sub pœna prædicta sex primis militibus et armigeris ad excitandum populum de patria pro domino T. T.,[3] J. H.,[4] P. Wentworthe, J. A., T. Danyel, H. Hunton, J. Wode, W. Prentys, S. Gunnor, H. Todynham, Joh. Wyndham, Palmere Ballivo de Costsey, T. Brygge, et suis complicibus subito et secretiori modo capiendo et versus London adducendo cum manu forti, et in Turri vel Newgate firmiter cum Thorp de Scacario carcere collocando, &c. Et tunc eorum clientes et eis adhærentes non possent, ymmo nec auderent nocere populo patriæ bonæ disposicionis. Certe si in

[1] Sir John Fastolf.
[2] John Wyndham.
[3] Sir Thomas Tuddenham.
[4] John Heydon.

hac parte fideliter laborare in effectu volueritis, dominus Comes Warwic, et omnes sibi et suis benivoli essent vobis multiformiter obligati, et tunc esset in Norffolchia mansio concors et valde pacificus. Utinam bona voluntas vestra non sit in hac materia pigra, &c.

2°. Item, quod Episcopus Norwicensis esset in curia Regis ad tempus, vel in parliamento omnino, quia hic parvum bonum facit, nisi supportando iniquos et paci patriæ contrarios ; est enim satis dives ad comprestandum pecunias Regi in necessitate sua. Ipse enim cum ducissa Suff. et aliis personis prænominatis sunt Reginæ et principi maxime favorabiles cum totis suis viribus; et ideo maxime expediens est parti Regis et comitis Warwic subtrahere, diminuere, et pocius opprimere, vires omnium illorum prædictorum eis et suis continue malignantium ex adverso, &c.

3°. Item, vos et vestri præmunire poteritis, si placeat, Doctores Kyrry et Godard quomodo fama communis hic volat continue per Boreales et eorum fautores quod Regina ac sui firmiter statuerunt unanimi decreto ipsos doctores et me non solum morti ignominiose tradere sed etiam generaliter omnes Fratres Minores citra flumen Trent commorantes interfici facere. Sed Magister Vergeant cum socio qui in sermonibus Reginam cum principe solempniter recommendat et in suis missis Reginam nominatim specificat per instanciam Ducissæ Suff. erit cum socio privilegiatus ab hac punicione.

4°. Item, bonum esset quod juvenis dux Suff. cum suis militibus et armigeris uteretur suis calcaribus et jam probaretur in bello cui esset fidelis, an caro vel pisces. Si T. T. cum suis prius recitatis essent unde memorati in parliamento a dominis et communibus, non dubium quin puniti essent causatores insurrectionis falsorum Regis contra Comitem Warwic apud pontem Westmonasterii, &c.

5°. Item, memorari dignetur dominus Comes Warwic quomodo T. T., J. H., J. A., et H. T., J. W. et cæteri gravissime comminantur priorem Wals' [Walsingham], &c.

6°. Item, caveant Comes Marchiæ et Comes Warwic ne quovis modo sit inter eos controversia, sed sint omnino unanimes et concordes, nec aliqua cupiditas consiliariorum suorum faveat alicui eorum adversario propter lucrum bonorum in finalem deperdicionem ipsorum et amicorum suorum.

7°. Item, fiat per decretum parliamenti diminutio juris peritorum ac legis attornatorum Suff. et Norff. punicioque taxata singulorum oppressorum, generosos ac eorum liberos, nativosque tenentes cotidie et annuatim gravissime infestancium.

8°. Continue ac continue cordialiter cogitate ac scrutinio diligenti sæpius revolvite quomodo inimici vestri et adversarii antiqui, spiritu rancoris et invidiæ maliciose agitati, nituntur pro posse suo, et totis viribus, vos, et vestros vobis benevolos funditus destruere et finaliter deperdere, quod absit omnino ; quare ex

naturali legis dictamine potestis et debetis vim vi violenter ac potenter reprimere ac repellere et eorum maliciis inveteratis virili congressu rigorose resistere, quia minus malum incomparabiliter videtur existere quod eorum obstinata malicia potestate politica sit diminuta et quasi dejecta quam vos et vestri affines, propinqui et amici essetis nimis depauperati, et quasi, quod absit, finaliter abjecti.

998.

A.D. 1460.—Friar Brackley to John Paston.

Warns him against that "instabilem virum, utinam Hibernicum, &c.," who told Mr. Clement that Fastolf's yearly expenses in Norfolk and Suffolk, truly reckoned, came to 800 marks, and that it was pure madness his bargaining with Paston for 4000 marks; "et quod idem Hibernicus scit deteriorare et diminuere bona militis ad summam viginti ml marcarum, &c." Take care that he do not undertake the burden of the will or sell or alien manors, &c., "nec commutat jocalia nec evidentiales literas per vestrum germanum W. P. et per ipsum receptas London, Bermondyseye, &c. Cum ideo sciat de multis ubi sunt, &c., videtur mihi, salvo, saltem, vestro meliori judicio, quod de aliis personis et locis est cum omni celeritate possibili prudenter providendum et politice, ne idem W. W. oculis luscus et denigrato colore, in facie fuscus, sit cum W. Yelverton Judice confœderatus et per ducem Exoniæ satis tirannizantem supportatus, et per suos complices, &c. . . . . Post vestrum didici recessum in 4or nostri Collegii famulis duplicibus et falsis cum omni perfidia contra voluntatem militis et ejus executores iniquitatis vinculo confœderatis et astrictis, scilicet, Colino Gallico, coquinæ clerico, W. W., militis secretario, et W. Eton; nunc in promptu ambo propter Jhesum Christum deleantur de libro vertuose et unanimiter vivencium."

Caister, Saturday.

[This letter was probably written just before No. 356. It is important as showing that William Worcester was not, as the Editor had imagined, the "Colinus Gallicus," but the "Hibernicus" of Brackley's epistles. That this was only a nickname is certain, for we know William Worcester's parentage and place of birth: and if he had any Irish blood in him, it was not that of his father or mother. The personal description, however, is very curious.]

999.

A.D. 1460.—Friar Brackley to John Paston.

Do not let your brother W. P. forget to inform H. Fylongley about W. W. Hibernicus and Colinus Gallicus, who are leagued

together against their master, the deceased knight and his executors, and have shown secret letters sent to the knight in special confidence. If this treachery were insinuated by H. Filongley or myself, say to the Earl of Wiltshire, this deceitful Colinus Gallicus would not be so great and intimate with that Earl as he thinks himself, or with the Queen, to whose service he was introduced by the labor of his brother to Master Ormond. If W. P. could get hold of the caskets of C. Gallicus and W. W. Hibernicus, you would probably find some great roguery.

1000.

A.D. 1461 [April?]—[Th. Denys] to John Paston.

I thank you as a poor man for succouring my wife, "which I wot well is woe begone." I have been too busy to write in this great trouble. "The noise came suddenly, and I was within the walls of your city; God save the governor thereof, for he was busy to trap me—more busy than he would be aknow; et per fenestram in sporta dimissus sum per murum, et sic effugi manus ejus. But he shall abye, by God, if I live, for searching mine house." As for the false noise, he lieth on me. I will prove that my servants were at Brisle that same hour, more than 16 miles distant.[1] I beg you still to help my wife, for my only sorrow is for her. Ere long I will "send to her to labour her to other place." If the boy that was hurt die, get your tenants in the hundred where he was beat "to do for me and mine," for I am not yet my own man. God knows the matter was falsely begun on me, "and usury it is and accursed." Begs him very earnestly to succour his wife "for she is widow yet for me."

1001.

A.D. 1461.—Thomas Plaiter to John Paston, Esq.

Is informed by Danyell of Gray's Inn that Kyng of Dounham who slew Thos. Denys is arrested, and in hold at Wysbyche, "and had been delivered now had Francis Costard a taken surety of peace of him." Danyell seems to expect he will accuse many others, probably Twyer for one. Haydon has paid 500 marks, and is delivered. It is said the Parliament will be prorogued to 4 Nov., and the King will into Scotland in haste.

"Wretyn in hast uppon the day of the Advencion (?)"

[1] Brisley is more than 16 miles from Norwich, being some miles north of East Dereham.

1002.

A.D. 1464 [15 Feb.]

Clement Paston to his Brother John Paston the Elder, Esquire.

Hugh Fenn's obligation has been acknowledged by Yelverton in the Exchequer as Sir J. Fastolf's deed, and there he had his judgment to receive the money and £10 damages. They report here that a sheriff after their intent "wyll mak hem execucion or ellis return that ze have wastyd the godes of the dede," and they will have execution of your own goods or a writ to take your body. Advises him to treat rather than let all the goods be thus wasted. Yelverton has charged the tenants in Southwark to pay no money but to him. The King has been in Gloucestershire and punished the rebellious, and so he intends to do in Norfolk and elsewhere.

"Wretyn on Hassewednysday in haste."

1003.

A.D. 1464? [28 June].

John Paston to Margaret Paston, and to John Dawbeney and Richard Call.

Has received a letter from her, and one from Call, &c. "As for your son, I let you wit, I would he did well; but I understand in him no disposition of policy, ne of governance, as man of the world ought to do, but only liveth, and ever hath, as man desolate without any provision, ne that he busyeth him nothing to understand such matters as a man of livelode must needs understand; ne I understand nothir of what disposition he purposeth to be, but only I can think he would dwell again in your house and mine, and there eat and drink and sleep. Therefore I let you wit I would know his, or he know mine intent, and how well he hath occupied his time, now he hath had leisure. Every poor man that hath brought up his children to the age of 12 year waiteth them to be holp and profited by his children, and every gentleman that hath discretion waiteth that his kin and servants that liveth by him and at his cost should help him forward. As for your son ye know well he never stood you ne me in profit, ease, or help, to value of one groat, saving at Calkot Hall, when [he] and his brother kept it one day against Debenham; and yet was it at three [times] the cost that that ever Debenham's sons put him to, for be her [*their*] policy they keep Cotton at my cost and

with the profits of the manor. Wherefore give him no favor till ye feel what he is and will be."

Call sends word that Mr. Philip has entered Drayton in my Lord of Suffolk's name, and that others purpose to enter Hellesdon. He asks my advice, which is that you comfort my tenants and help them till I come home. Tell them I shall not lose it, and that the last Duke of Suffolk would have bought it of Fastolf. As he could not have it that way, he claims the manor, saying that it was one Pole's ; but he does not come of that stock, and if he did it was lawfully bought and sold, and he never claimed it after. I mean to take assise against him, &c. He troubles me to make me cease labor against him for Dedham, which I will not.

Thursday before St. Peter's Day.

I have witnesses ready, and will speed this matter spiritual before Easter.

1004.

A.D. 1465 [15 Jan.]

John Paston to Margaret Paston, John Daubeney, and Ric. Calle.

A long letter, first about "provision of stuff" for his household, gathering revenues, &c. "And where ye desire me that I should take your son to grace, I woll for your sake do the better, and will ye know that he shall not be so out of my favor that I will suffer him to mischief without be eftsoones his own defaut. And howbeit that in his presumptuous and undiscreet demeaning he gaf both me and you cause of displeasure, and to other of my servants ill example, and that also guided him to all men's understanding that he was weary of biding in mine house, and he not insured of help in any other place ; yet that grieveth not me so evil as doth that I never could feel nor understand him politic nor diligent in helping himself, but as a drane among bees, which labour for gathering honey in the fields, and the drane doth naught but taketh his part of it. And if this might make him to know the better himself, and put him in remembrance what time he hath lost, and how he hath lived in idleness, and that he could for this eschew to do so hereafter, it might fortune for his best. But I heard yet never from no place that he hath be in of any politic demeaning or occupation of him. And in the King's house he could not put himself forth to be in favor or trust with any man of substance that might further him. Nevertheless, as for your house and mine, I purpose not he shall come there, nor by my will none other, but if he can do more than look forth and make a face and countenance."

Wishes to know what the glazier has done at Bromholm and at the Friars of Southtown, &c. Reminds her that his hay at Hellesdon last year was foully wasted. Speaks of an offer to farm Mautby Marsh, &c.

London, Tuesday next St. Hilary.

1005.

Year uncertain.

Thomas Playter to John Paston.

(*To be delivered to him at London, or else sent to him to Norwich.*)

Has spoken with my Lord Chancellor, and put the bill before him and all the Lords on Wednesday afternoon, "wenyng to me to have an answer upon Thursday." Was told by my Lord Chancellor they sped no particular matters since they came, and have no leisure to attend to them. My Lords Wiltshire and Beauchamp both promise to help. Fenyngley came only on Thursday evening. Has got a new bill made, which he will deliver to the King. The lords marvel sore at the entry made by the strange man before my lord entered. Spoke to my Lord Chancellor about Paston and his friends being put out of the commission of the peace, but "he hath not granted yet none new." The council is expected to break up on Monday next. The Archbishop of York "is heyll and mery."

Written 20 July.

1006.

Year uncertain.

Sir J. Paston to Margaret Paston.

On Tuesday after I departed from you, I was with my brother John at Atelborow at 8 P.M., and found him in such ease that you would have been as glad to have seen him as of a new son. I did not expect he would have lived till the morning, and I daresay if we had not come to him he would not have been alive on Wednesday; for since Saturday he slept not four hours "(and yet three of them was since I come thither)" till to-night. But to-night he slept well. His ague is gone, "and all that lay on his stomach and under his side it weareth away." He hopes to be well enough to visit his mother in a few days. On Wednesday I wished he and I had been at Norwich, and he harped all night upon the thought, and lost his rest. In an anger he would needs

to horse, and have no horse litter. We did not think he could have ridden a mile, but he passed Wyndham in less than an hour, and there rested an hour, and was here in an hour and a half. We said he led us a dance faster than we could follow. Hopes he is now safe.

Written on Friday next the Decollation of St. John Baptist.

INVENTORY.

This being a complete inventory of the newly found letters, includes those of which copies or abstracts have been given in the preceding pages. In such cases the number is not given in the margin, but at the end of the description of each letter.

1007.—Andrew, Thomas, to William Paston, with my Lord of Oxford. Ryburgh, this Monday next St. Andrew [Hen. VII.]

1008.—Anonymous to Lord ——. Touching Paston's title to the manor of Walsham against John Roys. *Begins:* "Paston recommend him to your good lordship."

1009.—Anonymous (in French). Wrentham, 28 March [Early].

1010.—Anonymous to William Sewarby. Edythorp by Bromholm, 1 July [Mutilated].

1011.—Anonymous to H. B. of Lincoln. About Fastolf's will. Wednesday, 9 April [1460].

1012.—Anonymous to [John Paston] "Worshipful master." Touching armorial bearings. With arms of Paston, Barry, &c. tricked upon the back of the letter.

1013.—Anonymous to "Master Paston." About a livery for "my Lord."

1014.—Anonymous to ——. A small scrap of paper without signature, date, or address, sealed with a *fleur de lis* (the Paston crest). *Begins:* "I prey zu if ze have any old gownys." Mentions that Wyndham is very wroth that Daniel is made Admiral [Hen. VI.]

1015.—Botoner to Sir John Paston, at the George, by Paul's Wharf (or to be left at a barber's over it). 1 March.

1017-19.—Brackley, Friar. Seven letters to John Paston. Four printed above in whole or in abstract (996-9).

1020.—Bromholm, Nich., Prior of, to William Paston (the Judge). "Dawn" John Paston has posted letters on Christchurch gates summoning the writer to Rome. [1425?]

1021.—Calle, Richard, to John Paston at the Temple. My Lord of Worcester lies at Blakney keeping household

at the Friars. Wymondham has entered Felbrigg. Heyneford, St. Martin's Day.

1022.—Calthorpe, W., to John Paston. Brunham, Ascension Day.

1023.—Clopton, J., to John Paston. The King has sent to the writer to be friendly to Lord Molynes. Melford, 1 April [about 1450].

1024.—Cotyng, W., to John Paston. Cambridge, Sunday before St. George.

1025.—Crowne (?), Rob., to Sir John Paston. London, Sunday [1468-9].

1026.—Damme, J., to John Paston, at the Temple. About Lord Molynes. Sustead, St. Andrew's Day [1448-9].

1027.—Daubeney, John, to [Sir John Paston]. London, Saturday before St. Laurence [1463-9].

1028.—Daune, Cicely, to Sir John Paston. Congratulations and advice on hearing that he is to marry a daughter of the Duchess of Somerset. Hellowe, 3 Nov. [Before 1467?]

1029.—Denyes to John Paston. Wevenho, 1 March.

Denyes to John Paston. Without date, &c. [April 1461.] No. 1000.

Denyes to John Paston. From the Fleet, 8 April [1454]. No. 995.

1030.—Dory, John, under-sheriff of Norfolk to John Paston. Without date. [Hen. VI.]

1031.—Fastolf, Sir John, to Sir Thos. Howys. London, 12 July 32 Hen. VI. [1454].

1032.—Fastolf, Sir John, to John Paston. Sunday before St. John Baptist.

1033.—Fenn, Hugh, to John Paston. London, 25 April.

1034.—Fitzwalter, John, Lord (same signature as in Nos. 902-3) to John Paston. Attelburgh, Tuesday before St. Matthew's Day.

1035.—Gloys, Jas., to John Paston. Norwich, St. Clement's Even [about 1450].

1036.—Gresham, J., to John Paston at Winchester. London, Friday after St. Peter's Day.

Gresham, J., to [John Paston]. London, 16 Oct. [1449]. No. 993.

1037.—Gresham, J., to John Paston. Without date. [Hen. VI.]

1038.—Gyne, John, to John Paston of Trinity Hall, Cambridge. About a purse found between Cambridge and Newmarket on Sunday after Ascension Day. Snailwell, Monday next after said Sunday. [Dated by Fenn on the MS., circa 1435-6.]

1039.—Hastings, Sir Ralph, to John Paston. His illness. Guisnes, 9 May [1473?] See No. 737.

1040.—[Hauteyn]. An account of the Friar [H.] coming to take possession of the manor of Oxnead as his inheritance, and being resisted by Edmund Paston. [Before 1449.]

1041.—Howard, Sir John. Memorandum, 22 Jan. 6 Edw. IV., of stuff delivered by "my master, Sir John Howard," to my lady his wife, in the said month of January.

1042.—Howard, Sir John. List of persons to whom "my master" Sir J. H. gave jackets at the fighting between Lord Scales and the Bastard of Burgundy. June, 7 Edw. IV.

1043.—Howard, Lady Katherine. Expenses at the funeral of Lady K. H., who died at Stokeneylond on the morrow of Soulmas Day, 5 Edw. IV.

1044.—Kyllygrewe, Robert, to his father-in-law, Ric. Wasse, dwelling in the parish of Morton. Without date.

1045.—Mundeford, Osberne, to John Paston, Esq. Hears that Daniel has entered Brayston, and put out his servants, &c. Calais, 9 Feb. [1450, or perhaps 1452]. See No. 92.

1046.—[Norfolk, Duke of], to Sir John Howard. To be his deputy now on the arrival of the Bastard of Burgundy, the writer being ill.

1047.—Norman, Edmund, of Filby. His will, 1444.

1048.—Osbern, John, to John Paston, in the Inner Temple. About Charles Nowell, &c. Norwich, 14 May [1452].

1049.—Oxford, Earl of, to John Paston. Wevenho, 30 April.

1050.—Oxford, Earl of, to John Paston. Wevenho, 25 July.

1051.—Oxford, Earl of, to John Paston. 23 Dec.

1052.—Paston, Agnes, to John Paston, at the Temple. Paston, Monday after Hallowmas.

Paston, Clement, to John Paston. Ash Wednesday, [1461]. No. 1002.

1053.—Paston, Clement, to John Paston. About the Parson of Blofield (Howes), who had come to town, and was sworn yesterday to give evidence about Sir John Fastolf. Wednesday after St. George. P.S.—The King has been in Kent, and many persons have been indicted. He will come to town to-day, and then go to York. [25 April 1464?]

1054.—[Paston, Edmund], to his brother, John Paston. A fragment. [About 1475?]

1055.—Paston, John, (son of the Judge). Petition to my Lord (Norfolk?) to support him in the possession of the manor (Cotton?), which was Fastolf's.

Paston, John, to Margaret Paston, Dawbeney, and Calle. Thursday before St. Peter's Day [1464]. No. 1003.

[Paston, John], to Margaret Paston, Daubency, and Calle. London, Tuesday next St. Hilary [15 Jan. 1465]. No. 1004.

1056.—[Paston, John, to Margaret Paston]. Morrow of St. Hilary.

1057.—Paston, Sir John, to Roger Townsend. London, 12 Feb.

1058.—Paston, Sir John, to Margaret Paston. Calais, 31 July.
Paston, Sir John, to Margaret Paston. Friday next the Decollation of St. John Baptist. No. 1006.

1059.—Paston, John, the youngest, to his father. At Hallywurthe, Saturday after Trinity Sunday.

1060.—Paston, John, the youngest, to his brother, Sir John Paston. Norwich, 1 March.

1061.—Paston, John, the youngest, to Margaret Paston. [No date.]
[Paston, Margaret], to her husband. Norwich, Friday after Pulver Wednesday [1449]. No. 992.

1062.—Paston, Margaret, to John Paston. Norwich, first Monday in Lent [about 1450?].

1063.—Paston, Margaret, to John Paston. Monday after St. Andrew.

1064.—Paston, Margaret, to John Paston. Heydon's wife had a child on St. Peter's Day, &c. Geldiston, Wednesday after St. Thomas.

1065.—[Paston, Margaret, to Sir John Paston]. Troubled that Sporle Wood is to be sold, &c. [1471?]

1066.—Paston, Margaret, to Sir John Paston. Midlent Sunday.

1067.—Paston, Margaret, to her son [Sir John?]. St. Simon's Day and Jude.

1068.—Paston, Margaret, to her son. Thursday after St. Martin.

1069.—Paston, Margaret, to John Paston. Original draft of Letter 681, with the P.S.:—"I warn yw kepe this letter clos, and lese yt not; rather bren yt."

1070.—[Paston, Margaret], to John Paston "*the younger*" (these words crossed through in the MS.) Esq. Friday after St. Luke.

1071.—Paston, Margaret, to John Paston the younger. Sunday next after your departing. P.S.—"And I pray you send me some tidings as soon as ye may after that ye be comen to London how your father speedeth and your brother in her (*i.e.* their) matters."

1072.—Paston, Margaret, to John Paston (the youngest). Hears that affray was made on him by men in disguise, &c. Without date.

1073.—Paston, William (the Judge). Instructions to John Staynford of Furnival's Inn.

1074.—Paston, William, son of the Judge, to his "sister" Margaret Paston. Norwich, 7 April.

1075.—Paston, William, son of the judge, to Henry Waryns. (A draft letter), 19 July 19 Edw. IV.

1076.—Piers, late servant of John Berney, to Margaret Paston. [About 1460.]

Plaiter, Thomas, to John Paston. The day of the Advencion (?) [1461]. No. 1001.

Plaiter, Thomas, to John Paston. 20 July. No. 1005.

1077.—Pleadings in 23 Hen. VI.

1078.—R. B. to John Paston, Squire, with my Lord Chamberlain. From Weston.

1079.—Radclyff, John, of Attylburgh, to John Paston. Attylburgh, 17 Dec.

1080.—Reynolds, William, of Crowmer, to Agnes Paston. Crowmer, next day after St. Mark.

1081.—Russe, John, to Margaret Paston. Without date. [After 1466.]

1082.—Stoke, Battle of, list of Knights made at (mutilated).

1083.—Suffolk, Alice, Duchess of. Letters of Thomas Cardinal, Archbishop of Canterbury, setting forth an application made to him by Alice D. of S., touching her alleged title to Hellesdon. Without date.

1084.—Surrey, E., Countess of, to ——. A brief note, the whole of which is crossed through.

Wayte, W., to John Paston. Rougham, Sunday after New-Year's Day [1451]. No. 994.

1085.—Wayte, W., to John Paston. Rougham, Saturday night.

1086.—Wykes' bill for travelling expenses. Headed "Toward my Lord of Oxford."

Chronological Table

OF

PUBLIC AND PRIVATE OCCURRENCES.

[This Table is intended partly to serve the purpose of a Table of Contents to the more important Letters, partly to enable the reader to see at a glance the bearing of particular transactions on the general history of the times. The Nos. quoted are those of the Letters.]

HENRY V.

1413.

Accession of Henry V.

1415.

Henry V.'s first campaign in France—Battle of Agincourt.

1417-8.

Henry V.'s second campaign in France, **1.**

1419.

13 Jan. *Capture of Rouen,* **1.**

1420.

24 Mar. Marriage Settlement of William Paston, **2.**
21 May. *Treaty of Troyes.*

1422.

31 Aug. *Henry V. dies at Vincennes.*

HENRY VI.

1422.

1 Sept. *Accession.* The King only nine months old.

1424.

Outrages committed by Walter Aslak in Norfolk, **4.**

1425.

Disputes between Humphrey, Duke of Gloucester, and Beaufort, Bishop of Winchester.

1425-6.

Disputes between William Paston and John Wortes, 5, 6, 7.

1427.

Beaufort made a Cardinal.

1428-9.

Siege of Orleans—Raised by Joan of Arc.

1429.

6 Nov. *Coronation of Henry VI. at Westminster.*
7 Dec. William Paston made a brother of the Monastery of Bury, 13.

1431.

30 May. *Joan of Arc burned at Rouen.*
17 Dec. *Coronation of Henry VI. at Paris.*

1432.

29 Nov. *Demands of the Earl of Warwick touching the charge of the King's education*, 18.

1434?

William Dalling's petition against William Paston, 19.

1434-5.

Sir John Fastolf, captain of Le Mans, 21.

1435.

Aug. *Peace Conferences at Arras—broken off by England.*
14 Sept. *Death of the Duke of Bedford at Rouen. The Duke of York made Regent.*
21 Sept. *The Duke of Burgundy deserts England, and makes a separate peace with France.*

1436.

Recovery of Paris by the French.
The Duke of York lands in Normandy, and recovers several places from the French.
Calais besieged by the Duke of Burgundy, but relieved by the Duke of Gloucester.

1437.

19 Feb. *James I. of Scotland murdered.*
16 July. *The Duke of York recalled from France, and the Earl of Warwick sent in his place.*

1439.

Death of Warwick at Rouen. York made Regent again.
Peace Conferences at Calais—ineffectual.

About 1440.

John Paston's introduction to Margaret Mauteby, 25.
His marriage to her, 26.

1440.

Release of the Duke of Orleans, 27.

1443.

John Paston ill in London, 36.

1444.

Feb. William Paston and Chief Justice Fortescue both too ill to go on circuit, 37.
14 Aug. Death of William Paston, 42.

1445.

Disputes of Agnes Paston with the Vicar of Paston, 46.
22 April. *Marriage of Henry VI. with Margaret of Anjou*, 46.

1447.

Parliament of Bury.—Arrest and death of Gloucester.
Death of Cardinal Beaufort.

1448.

17 Feb. John Paston dispossessed of Gresham by Lord Molynes, 77.
A relief claimed by Lady Morley, 57.
Daniel said to be out of favour, 57.
22 May. Affray at Coventry between the retainers of Sir Robert Harcourt and Sir Humphrey Stafford, 60.

1449.

Mar. Death of Edmund Paston—his nuncupative will dated 21 March, 64.
May. *Robert Wenyngton captures a fleet of* 100 *ships*, 68. Friar Hauteyn's claim to Oxnead, 47, 66.
6 Oct. John Paston again occupies Gresham, 67, 77.
The King in the Marches of Wales, 993.
Capture of Rouen by the French.
Stephen Scrope a suitor of Elizabeth Paston, 70, 71.

1450.

28 Jan. John Paston's wife driven out of Gresham, 77, 78.
7 Feb. *Impeachment of the Duke of Suffolk*, 76.
John Paston presents a petition to the King in Parliament against Lord Molynes, 77.
Mar. Foreigners light on the coast of Norfolk, and take people prisoners, 80, 81.
15 April. Battle of Fourmigni—Sir Thomas Kiriel taken prisoner, 93.
30 April. The Duke of Suffolk's letter to his son, 91.
April or May. Daniel enters the manor of Brayston, 83, 92.
2 May. *The Duke of Suffolk murdered at sea*, 93, 94.
May. New appointments to offices of state, 96.
Jack Cade's rebellion, 99.
12 Aug. *Loss of Cherbourg, the last place held by the English in Normandy*, 103.
Aug. Disturbances in Norfolk, 104, 105.
Thomas Denyes and the Earl of Oxford, 96, 97, 104.
J. Paston's dispute with Lord Molynes, 103, 107, 108, 111, 116.
Sept. *The Duke of York comes over from Ireland, and causes a change of administration*, 113, 114.
Molynes and his men indicted of felony, 118.
Oct. Election of two knights of the shire for Norfolk, 119, 120.
Nov. *Meeting of Parliament—Oldhall chosen Speaker*, 122.
Tuddenham and Heydon unpopular in Norfolk, 124, 994.
Dec. *Oyer and terminer* in Suffolk, at Beccles, 130, 131.
Oyer and terminer going into Norfolk, 132.

1451.

Jan. An *oyer and terminer* for Kent, 140.
Oyer and terminer to be held at Norwich at Easter, 143, 144.
John Paston re-enters Gresham, 146.
25 Feb. Bettes arrested at a court held by Gonnor at Routon, 146.
1 Mar. Heydon's horse brought through Aylesham into Norwich, 147, 148.
1 Mar. Tuddenham and Heydon expected to regain their ascendancy, 150.
Petition to Parliament against Sir Thomas Tuddenham, 151.
April. Tuddenham and Heydon to be indicted at Norwich, 152.
May. Lord Molynes and his men indicted at Walsingham, 155, 156; acquitted by favour of the King, 155, 159.
1 July. Death of Sir Harry Inglos, 167.
Aug. *Surrender of Bayonne:—entire loss of Gascony and Guienne by the English.*

1451.

Dec. Daniel hoping to re-enter Brayston, 172; which he did soon after, 92.

1452.

7 April. Good Friday. *A general pardon granted by the King.*
April. The Duke of Norfolk coming to Norfolk to redress disorders, 173, 174, 175.
The King also coming into Norfolk, 173, 174.
Outrages of Charles Nowell and others, 175, 176, 179, 201.
Roger Church, being taken prisoner by his own consent, accuses many gentlemen of sedition, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 201.
An army sent under Shrewsbury to recover Guienne.
18 Dec. The Duke of York pawns jewels to Sir J. Fastolf, 184.

1453.

Building operations [at Caister?], 185, 186.
April. Visit of Margaret of Anjou to Norwich, 187.
July. Deaths of Philip Berney and Sir John Heveningham, 188, 189.
July. *The Earl of Shrewsbury defeated and slain at Castillon. Final loss of Guienne.*
Aug.? *The King falls ill at Clarendon.*
Dec.? *The Duke of Norfolk's petition against Somerset*, 191.

1454.

Jan. *The King's imbecility*, 195.
York and other Lords coming up to London, 195.
12 Jan. Walter Ingham waylaid and beaten by procurement of Thomas Denyes, 198.
Thomas Denyes and his wife put in prison, 199, 200, 204, 995.
22 Mar. *Death of Cardinal Kemp*, 199.
3 April. *The Duke of York made Protector.*

1454?

Marriage proposed between John Clopton and Elizabeth Paston, 202, 203.

1454.

May or June. *Defeat of the French in an attack on Jersey and Guernsey*, 206.
6 June. Wardship of Thomas Fastolf of Cowhaw, granted to John Paston and Thomas Howys, 207.—Paid for by Sir J. Fastolf, 227.—Disputed by Sir Philip Wentworth, 207, 219, 222, 223, 233, 234, 245, 248, 261.
9 June. *Edward the King's son created Prince of Wales*, 206.

1454.

5 July. *The Duke of York and other Lords coming up from the North—Lords appointed to keep the sea*, 208.
11 July. Marriage proposed for Elizabeth Paston by Lord Grey of Hastings, 209, 210.
July. *The Duke of York is commissioned to convey the Duke of Exeter to the North, and commit him to Pomfret Castle*, 211.
Aug.? Sir John Fastolf goes to reside at Caister, 211, 216.
Sept. Pestilence in London, 216.
Nov. Fastolf proposes to sue an attaint, 223, 224.
25 Dec. *The King recovers from his illness*, 226.

1455.

5 Feb. *Somerset released from the Tower.*
7 Feb. Sir J. Fastolf resents words spoken at a dinner at Norwich, 228.
4 Mar. *The questions between Somerset and York referred to arbitrators.*
17 Mar. Presentation to Stokesby church, 229, 230.
29 Mar. Sir Thomas Howes vexed by Andrews and others, 232, 252.
22 May. *The first battle of St. Albans*, 239-241, 243.
June. Election of Howard and Chamberlain for Norfolk, 244, 247, 249, 250.
[June or July]. *Attempt of the Scots on Berwick.*
7 July. Poynings acquitted of treason, &c., 252.
19 July. Dispute between Warwick and Lord Cromwell before the King, 253.
25 July. Slander against John Paston, Yelverton, and Alyngton, 254, 255.
26 July. Letter of the Bishop of Lincoln, 256.
28 Oct. *Affray at Radford's place in Devonshire between the men of the Earl of Devonshire and of Lord Bonvile*, 257.
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13 Nov. Fastolf and the Duke of Bedford's goods, 259, 272-3, 276.
19 Nov. *The Duke of York appointed Protector a second time.*
25 Nov. Daniel comes to Rising Castle, 260.
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1456.

6 Jan. Fastolf about to make his will, 267.
20 Jan. Fastolf and Lady Whitingham, 270-2.
5 Feb. Fastolf and Lord Willoughby's executors, 274.
9 Feb. *York and Warwick come to the Parliament with* 300 *armed men*, 275.

1456.

25 Feb. *York again discharged of the Protectorship.*
1 Mar. Fastolf's "compert" sped in the Exchequer, 277.
27 Mar. Letter of Archbishop Bourchier, 279.
30 Mar. Letter of Dame Alice Ogard, 280.
8 May. Progress of the attaint, 281.
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15 May. The King at Sheen, the Queen at Tutbury, &c., 282, 285
1 June. Farmers of Cowhaw, &c., 284.
7 June. *Siege expected at Calais*, 285.
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17 July. Fastolf's proposed College, 290, 300, 301.
31 July. Fastolf and the Prior of Hickling, 291.
10 Aug. Learned men not easy to get this harvest, 292.
7 Sept. Letter of the Archbishop of Canterbury, 294.
8 Oct. *The Court at Coventry.*
16 Oct. *Bishop Waynflete made Chancellor in place of Archbishop Bourchier, &c.*, 298.
16 Oct. *Affray at Coventry.*
15 Nov. Visit of my Lady of York to Caister, 286, 300.
Nov. Suit of Paston and Howes against Andrews, 302.

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1 May. Expenses of Fastolf's household, 305.
The Court at Hereford:—Welshmen indicted, 305.
28 Aug. *The French burn Sandwich.*

1458.

24 Jan. [? year]. Earl of Salisbury excuses himself by illness from coming up to London, 310.
28 Jan. Clement Paston and his tutor Grenefeld, 311.
1 Feb. Arrival of the different Lords in London, 313.
Feb. The King at Berkhampstead, 314.
15 Mar. *The council sits at the Black Friars in the forenoon and at the White Friars in the afternoon*, 315.
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25 Mar. *Reconciliation of the Lords at London.*
29 May. *Sea fight off Calais on Trinity Sunday between Warwick and the Spaniards*, 317.
27 Aug. William Worcester learning French in London, 318.
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1459.

3 Jan. Elizabeth Poynings to her mother, Agnes Paston, 322.
Feb.? *Fray between the King's servants and Warwick's; after which Warwick goes over to Calais.*
5 Mar. John Paston, the eldest son, to John Paston his father, regretting having given him displeasure, 323.

1459.

29 April. Hastings and others ordered to be with the King at Leicester on the 10th May. Is Paston's son to go? 325.
25 May. Osbert Mundeford to John Paston (in French), 326.
23 Sept. *Battle of Bloreheath*—Lord Audley defeated by Salisbury.
12 Oct. *Dispersion of the Yorkists at Ludlow.*
3 Nov. Will of Sir J. Fastolf, 332, 333, 334.
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7 Dec. The Yorkists attainted in the Parliament at Coventry, 342.
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1460.

Jan. *Rivers and his son surprised at Sandwich, and carried over to Calais*, 345, 346.
The King coming to London, and raising the people on his way, 346.
8 May. The Abbot of Langley excuses himself from coming up to London about Fastolf's will, 351.
10 July. *Battle of Northampton—the King taken prisoner.*
23 July. The Yorkist Lords to the authorities in Norfolk, 353.
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12 Oct. *The Duke of York coming up to London*, 357. *He challenges the Crown in Parliament*, 361.
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29 Oct. Inquisition to be taken on the same for Suffolk at Bungay, 365.
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1461.

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4 Mar. *Edward IV. proclaimed King.*
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1461.

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April. *Henry VI. besieged in Yorkshire*, 386.
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31 May. The Earl of Oxford anticipates disturbance from Howard, 390.
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26 June. Elizabeth Poynings dispossessed of her lands, 395.
28 June. *Coronation of Edward IV.*
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July. The King should be informed of the demeaning of the shire, 397.
3 July. A message for Thomas Denys' wife, 398.
6 July. Murder of Thomas Denys, 399, 403, 406, 1001.
9 July. Denys' wife in great trouble, 400.
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27 July. John Paston restores to the King the jewels pledged to Fastolf by his father, the Duke of York, 407.
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28 Aug. William Worcester out of favour with Paston and Howes, 412.
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4 Sept. Yelverton and Jenn y take a distress at Cotton, 414, 415.
Sept. The Duke of Gloucester to have Caister, 415.
4 Oct. *The castles in Wales given up to Edward IV.*, 416.
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11 Oct. The King is offended at John Paston for not obeying Privy Seals, 417.

1461.

2 Nov. John Paston delivered from the Fleet, and Howard committed to prison, 421.

Dec. Message of the King to the people of Norfolk through Yelverton, 430, 134, 431.

1462.

Jan. Clarence and Suffolk to be sent down to Norfolk with a commission to judge rioters, 435.

Feb. Presentation to Drayton Church, 440.

Feb. *Projected invasion of England in three places in the interest of Henry VI.*, 440.

Feb. *Executions of Sir Thomas Tuddenham and of Lord Aubrey de Vere.*

Mar. Sir John Howard like to lose his head, 441.

13 Mar. John Paston the elder at great expense travelling with the King, 442.

Mar. Confession of French prisoners taken at Sherringham—*the Duke of Somerset going into Scotland*, &c., 443.

24 Mar. The King going to keep Easter at Bury, 444.

April. The Earl of Worcester to be Treasurer, 446.

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17 July. Death of Christopher Hanson, 457-9.

July. *Warwick and other Lords going to Scotland in embassy*, 458-9.

Sept. Proclamation for men to serve the King, 460.

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Oct. *The castle of Bamborough taken by Margaret of Anjou*, 463.

11 Dec. *Alnwick, Dunstanborough, and Bamborough besieged by King Edward's forces*, 464.

1463.

19 Jan. Return of John Paston, the eldest son, home to Norwich, 465.

[Feb.] A writ received at Norwich against John Paston jun. (the eldest son), 467.

19 Mar. Ralph Lampet's testimony about Fastolf's will, 469.

6 April. Sir Roger Chamberlain's testimony about Fastolf's will, 471.

6 May. John Paston should have my Lord of Suffolk's "good lordship" to live in peace, 472.

1463.

July. Examinations touching a murder, 473.
31 Aug. The Duke of Norfolk desires John Paston the father's presence at Framlingham, 476.
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A marriage suggested for John Paston's daughter (Margery), 479.
Sir John Paston leaves home clandestinely, 480.
10 Dec. Plate lent by John Paston to St. Mary's College, Cambridge, 481.

1464.

26 Jan. Lawsuits of Ogan and Debenham with John Paston, 482.
28 Jan. Henry Berry appeals to John Paston for aid to the Monastery of St. Augustine's, Canterbury, 483.
27 Feb. Berney, Yelverton, and Rough summoned to appear before the King, 484.
29 Feb. Assizes at Thetford, 484, 485.
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11 April. Plate and other articles delivered by the Prior of Norwich to Richard Calle, 487.
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1 May. *Edward IV. marries Elizabeth Woodville privately.*
8 May. *Battle of Hexham.—Somerset beheaded*, 15th; *and Lords Hungerford and Roos*, 27th.
Ap.—Nov. Depositions touching Fastolf's will, 488.
12 May. Seisin of Horninghall in Caister to be delivered to the Pastons, 489.
8 June. Commission to inquire why men did not come more quickly to serve the King when summoned, 490.
28 June. Suit by Jenney against Paston, 491.
Petition of John Paston to Edward IV. for license to found a college at Caister, 492.
10 Sept. Agreement of the King with John Paston for the foundation of the college, 493.
20 Nov. Outlawry of John Paston, 494.
3 Dec. Mocking letter addressed to John Paston, 496.

1465.

7 Feb. Judgment against Daubeney, Ric. Calle, &c., 497.
31 Mar. Message by William Worcester to Sir Thomas Howes, 498.
8 April. The Duke of Suffolk lays claim to Drayton and Hellesdon, 499, 501.

1465.

3 May. His bailiffs trouble the tenants there, 500, 502, 506, 510.
13 May. Margaret Paston wishes John Jenney put out of the commission of the peace, 503.
20 May. Paston's servants take distresses at Drayton, 504.
26 May. *Coronation of Elizabeth Woodville as Queen.*
27 May. Right of presentation to Drayton church, 505.
15 June. Master Popy's examination, 507.
18 June. John Rysing imprisoned at Ipswich, 508, 510.
18-21 June. Examination of witnesses touching Fastolf's will, 509.
6 July? The Duke of Suffolk raising men, 511.
10 July. His men attempt to enter Hellesdon, 512, 513, 514, 517.
The Parson of Brandeston taken, 516.
July? *Henry VI. taken prisoner in Lancashire, and committed to the Tower.*
7 Aug. Outrages committed by Suffolk's men on Paston's servants going to hold a court at Drayton, 518.
7 Aug. Matters concerning John Russe, 519, 520.
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18 Aug. Sessions held after the assizes by Yelverton, 523.
Margaret Paston going up to her husband in London, 523.
Aug. John Paston examined touching Fastolf's will, 525.
14 Sept. Margaret Paston in London, 526.
Commission touching right of presentation to Drayton church, 527.
21 Sept. John Paston desires his wife to send him worsted for doublets, 528.
22 Sept. Margaret Paston enters Cotton on her way back from London, 529, 531.
27 Sept. John Salet supposed to have found evidence in the register of wills in favour of Suffolk's title to Hellesdon and Drayton, 530.
15, 16 Oct. Attack on the lodge at Hellesdon by the Duke of Suffolk, 533, 534.
18 Oct. The Duke of Norfolk comes of age, 532.
Message from the King to Sir William Yelverton, 535.
10 Nov. Wymondham of Felbrigg invites Margaret Paston to his house, 536.

1466.

12 May. Friar John Mowth inquires touching bonds delivered by Friar Brackley to William Paston, 541.
22 May. Death of John Paston. His funeral, 549.
May, June. Examinations touching Fastolf's will, 550.
17 July. The Paston family proved to be "of worshipful blood since the Conquest," 552, 554.
16 Sept. Will of Agnes Paston, 555, 556, 557.

1466.

29 Oct. Margaret Paston to Sir John Paston touching his father's will, 560.
Sir John Paston wishes Arblaster to refuse administration of his father's will, 566.
J. Strange proposes a marriage for Margery Paston, 567.

1467.

7 Feb. Yelverton labouring to get new witnesses up to London, 569.
Mar. John Paston the younger desires to marry Lady Boleyn's daughter, 570, 573.
3 April. Witnesses coming up to London,—Abbot of Langley and Witchingham. Henry Inglos will not come without a subpœna, 571.
April. Sir John Paston hurts his hand at a tournament at Eltham, 572.
April. Evidence of Friar Mowth touching Master Brackley and Sir John Fastolf's will, 573.
1 May. Wager of Sir John Paston touching the marriage of the Princess Margaret and the "the Lord Charles," son and heir of the Duke of Burgundy, 574.
2 July. Evidence found during Fastolf's life by William Worcester touching the lands which belonged to the De la Poles, 575.
11 July. Fastolf of Cowhaw intends to assault Caister, 576.
28 Aug. Fastolf's trustees make grant to Sir John Paston of manors in Caister, &c., 577.
2 Oct. Sir John Paston grants the manor of Henmales in Cotton to the Duke of Norfolk, 579.
Petition of John Herling of Basingham to Margaret Paston, 580.

1468.

11 Jan. Release made by Fastolf's trustees to Sir John Paston of manors in Caister, &c., 581.
Proposal to found Fastolf's college at Cambridge, if it cannot be at Caister or at St. Benet's, 582.
William Worcester congratulates Margaret Paston that Caister is to be at her commandment, 582.
12 April. Hugh Fenn intercedes for a poor tenant in Catts lands, from whom a distress was taken by Thomas Pecock, Sir John Paston's servant. Titleshale had no right to sell Catts to Fastolf, 583.
18 April. Sir John Paston is ordered to be ready by the 1st June to accompany the Princess Margaret into Flanders, 584.

1468.

3 July. *Marriage of Charles the Bold, Duke of Burgundy, and the Princess Margaret*, 585.
16 July. General pardon to William Paston, 586.
18 July. The Earl of Oxford desires Sir John Paston to get him "three horse harness," 587.
22 July. Sir John Paston to Anne Haute, 588.
10 Oct. Howes agrees with the Duke of Norfolk about Caister, 589.
Declaration by Howes against the authenticity of Fastolf's will, 590.
28 Oct. The Duchess of Suffolk intends to enter Cotton, 591.
9 Nov. Sir John Paston hiring men to keep Caister, 592.
15 Dec. Elizabeth Ponyngs complains of Sir Robert Fenys, who occupies her lands, 593, 594.
Sir George Browne to John Paston, 595.

1469.

William Ebesham sends Sir J. Paston an account for scrivener's work, 596.
7 Jan. The Duchess of Suffolk intends holding a court at Cotton, 597.
18 Jan. The King charges Sir J. Paston and the Duke of Norfolk to cease making assemblies, 599.
17 Mar. Sir J. Paston gives the chapel at Caister to John Yotton, the Queen's chaplain, 600.
3 April. Margaret Paston is anxious to know about her son Sir John's betrothal, 601.
7 April. The King expected in Norfolk, 602.
10 April. Lord Scales, in consideration of Sir J. Paston's engagement to his kinswoman, Anne Hawte, urges the Duke of Norfolk to forbear trespassing on Sir John's lands, 603, 604.
5 May. Citation of the Bishop of Winchester and others as executors of Sir J. Fastolf, 605.
7 May. Archbishop Nevill sends Sir J. Paston £20, 606.
May. Ric. Calle engaged to Margery Paston, 607, 609.
May. The Duke of Norfolk intends holding courts at Caister, 607.
22 May. Ric. Calle cannot get a penny of rent for Paston in Suffolk or Flegg, 608.
22 May. The King going to Walsingham, 610, 611.
[19 June]. *The King visits Norwich*, 612.
June. The lodge at Hellesdon is pointed out to the King, 612.
June. *Robin of Redesdale's insurrection.*
9 July. The Queen expected at Norwich on the 18 July, 614.

1469.

9 July. *The King sends a credence to Clarence, Warwick, and the Archbishop of York*, 615.
Aug. *The King is taken prisoner near Coventry, and sent to Middleham.*
Aug. Caister besieged by the Duke of Norfolk, 616.
Examination of Margery Paston and Calle by the Bishop of Norwich, 617.
Sept. Sir John Paston attempts to negotiate with the Duke of Norfolk through the medium of the King's Council, 618, 619, 622-5.
12 Sept. Margaret Paston warns Sir John of the distress of the garrison at Caister, 620.
15 Sept. Sir John Paston disbelieves his mother's warning, 621.
20 Sept. *Rivers and his son, Sir J. Woodville, put to death by the insurgents.*
26 Sept. Caister surrendered, 626-630.
5 Oct. John Paston desires instructions about the discharged garrison of Caister, 631.
Oct. *The King, having recovered his liberty, returns to London*, 632.
[Oct.] Richard Calle and Margery Paston at Blackborough Nunnery, 633.
6 Nov. Sale of Beckham by Sir John Paston to Roger Townsende, 634.
Dec. Two widows sue an appeal against John Paston, 636, 646.

1470.

Mar. *Insurrection of Sir Robert Welles*—the King goes into Lincolnshire to put it down, 637, 638.
Mar. *Battle of Losecoatfield* (*Stamford*), 655.
May. Letters of W. Worcester about Titchwell, 639, 640.
22 June. John Paston and others charged with felony in killing men at the siege of Caister, 641, 642.
22 June. The Duchess of Norfolk promises to intercede for John Paston with her husband, 641.
14 July. Agreement of Bishop Waynflete and Sir J. Paston for the termination of disputes about Fastolf's will, 645.
15 July. Margaret Paston complains of her sons, 647.
July, Aug. Sir J. Paston pledges plate, 643, 644, 649.
5 Aug. *Rebellion in the North.—Clarence and Warwick expected to land in England*, 648.
10 Aug. Endowment of Magdalen College, Oxford, with Fastolf's lands, 650.
7 Sept. Edward anticipates an invasion of Kent, 653.

1470.

HENRY VI. RESTORED.

12 Oct. *Queen Elizabeth Woodville in Sanctuary*, 654.
12 Oct. The Earl of Oxford befriends John Paston, 654.
Dec. The Duke of Norfolk evacuates Caister and releases it to Bishop Waynflete, 657-9.
28 Dec. Calthorpe, wishing to reduce his household, advises Margaret Paston to provide a marriage for her daughter Anne, 660.

1471.

14 Feb. Lord Beauchamp releases his interest in Caister, &c. to John Paston, 662.
14 Mar. *Edward IV. lands at Ravenspur.*—His landing anticipated by the Earl of Oxford, 663.
19 Mar. Oxford orders the lieges of Norfolk to meet him at Lynn to resist King Edward, 664.
[Mar.] *Clarence goes over to Edward IV.*, 665.
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18 April. *News of Queen Margaret's landing*, 668.
Escape of the Earl of Oxford, 669.
4 May. *Battle of Tewkesbury*, 671.
12 May. *Attempt of the Bastard Falconbridge on London.*
21 May. *Death of Henry VI.*
23 June. Caister again taken by a servant of the Duke of Norfolk (W. Wyrc. Itin. 368), 672.
5 July. Lord Scales (Rivers) offers to befriend John Paston, 672.
17 July. The King signs a bill of pardon to John Paston, 674.
15 Sept. *The Bastard Falconbridge beheaded*, 675, 676.
Sir J. Paston desires his brother to watch Caister, 675.
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28 Sept. Sir J. Paston wishes to have the measure of his father's tomb, and some measurements at Gresham, 676.
Sept. The King and Queen on pilgrimage to Canterbury, 676.
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28 Oct. A general pardon proposed, 678.
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5 Nov. Death of J. Berney of Witchingham, 681.
29 Nov. Margaret Paston is annoyed at Sir John's extravagance, 685.
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1472.

8 Jan. Sir John Paston receives his pardon, 687.
Queen Margaret is removed to Wallingford, 687.
23 Jan. John Paston urges his brother to obtain probate of his father's will, 688.
John Paston interrupts a court which Gurney attempts to hold at Saxthorpe, 688.
5 Feb. The one widow comes up to London to sue the appeal, 689.
17 Feb. Sir John Paston and Anne Haulte, 690.
The King intercedes with Clarence for Gloucester, 690.
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30 April. The Earl of Northumberland gone home into the North, 692.
Sickness prevalent, 692.
Archbishop Nevill committed to the Tower, and then sent to sea, 692.
The Countess of Oxford still in St. Martin's, 692.
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14 May. Arrangement with Gurney about Saxthorpe, 693.
25 May. Sir John Paston's lands will not pay his debts under present management—his mother will disinherit him if he sell any land, 694.
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8 July. Altercations with Sir James Gloys, 697, 702.
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21 Sept. Conferences with the Duchess of Norfolk about Caister, 701.
29 Sept. John Paston desires a goshawk, 702-3, 708.
4 Nov. Sir J. Paston jests with the Duchess of Norfolk on her condition, 703.
Rivers coming home from Brittany, 703.
The Duchess of Norfolk wishes to have Margaret Paston with her at her confinement, 765. [This letter has been accidentally misplaced in the year 1475.]
8 Nov. Approaching confinement of the Duchess, 704.
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19 Nov. Dr. Alen's wife, 705, 707.
22 Nov. John Paston going to Calais, 706.
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1472.

Nov. or Dec. Margaret Paston desires a license to have the sacrament in her chapel, 712.
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7 Dec. Agreement of Bishop Waynflete and William Worcester, 713.
18 Dec. Bishop Waynflete intercedes with the Duchess of Norfolk about Caister, 714.
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John Paston's petition to the Duke, 715.

1473.

18 Jan. Margaret Paston wishes her son Walter not to be too hasty in taking orders, 716.
Illness of John Berney of Reedham, 716.
3 Feb. Sir J. Paston writes from Calais of a visit he had paid to the Duke of Burgundy's court at Ghent, 717.
8 Mar. J. Paston urges his mother to borrow £100 for Sir John, 719, 722, 732.
8 Mar. "Frenchmen whirling on the coasts," 719, 720.
26 Mar. John Blennerhasset chosen collector in Norfolk, 720, 721.
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2 April. *The Queen and Prince coming out of Wales to Leicester*, 721.
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12 April. *The King to be after Easter at Leicester*, 722.
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18 May. The Earl of Wiltshire and Lord Sudley dead, 724.
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5 July. Edmund Paston at Calais, 727.
28 Aug. Armour for Sir John Paston, 728.
16 Sept. Hastings to Sir J. Middleton and Sir J. Paston, 729.
30 Sept. *The Earl of Oxford takes St. Michael's Mount by surprise, but is afterwards besieged there.*
6 Nov. *The dispute between Clarence and Gloucester*, 731, 732.
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22 Nov. Death of Sir James Gloys, 732.

1473.

A dispensation may be had at Rome as to Anne Haulte, 732.
Anne Paston and Yelverton, 732.
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25 Nov. *The Earl of Oxford still besieged at St. Michael's Mount*, 733.
Will Margaret Paston dwell at Caister, if it be recovered? 733.
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1474.

Feb. *Lewis XI. at Amiens*, 736.
20 Feb. *The Earl of Oxford surrenders, and is compelled to sue for his life*, 736.
Sir J. Paston expects to have Caister again, 736.
26 April. Hastings to John Paston at Guisnes, 737.
25 July. John Paston, Elizabeth Eberton, and another lady, 739, 747.
24 Oct. Will. Paston pledges plate to Eliz. Clere, 740.
3 Nov. The Vicar of Paston to Margaret Paston, complaining of Henry Warns who intimidates the tenants at Paston, 741, 742. [These two letters should have been placed in the year 1479.]
[Nov.] Sir John Paston recovered from illness, 745.
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20 Nov. Sir J. Paston redeems Sporle, 746.
Agnes Paston recovered from illness, 746.
Margaret, daughter of William Paston, dead, 746.
John Paston and Lady Walgrave, 747, 749.
John Paston and Stockton's daughter, 747.
A French embassy in London, 747.
[About 8 Dec.] Edward IV. visits Norwich, 752.
11 Dec. Lady Walgrave rejects John Paston's ring—her musk-ball, 749.

1475.

17 Jan. Sir J. Paston going to Flanders, 750.
Siege of Neuss by Charles the Bold, 750.
29 Jan. William Paston endeavouring to get possession of Oxnead, 751.
Sporle Wood cannot be sold in whole to advantage, 752, 754.
Sir J. Paston ill in his eye and leg, 752, 754.
5 Feb. Efforts for the recovery of Caister, 753.

1475.

Sir J. Paston detained at Calais, 753.
5 Mar. Margaret Paston will apply to the Archbishop of Canterbury for the license to have sacrament in her chapel, 755.
29 Mar. The Duchess of Norfolk going to Walsingham, 757.
23 May. Margaret Paston writes of money difficulties—"the King goeth so near us in this country," 758.
Pecock has paid two taxes for Sir J. Paston, 758.
Sir J. Paston's brothers going over sea, 758.
13 June. Edmund Paston going over to Calais, 760.
10 Aug. The Duchess of York at St. Bennet's, 761.
29 Aug. *Peace of Pecquigny*, 762.
11 Sept. *The King's army returned to Calais*, 762.
The King had spoken to the Duke of Norfolk about Caister, 762, 764.
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10 Oct. How to get Caister again, 763.
The King going to Walsingham, 763.
23 Oct. John Paston sick, 764.
Petition of Sir J. Paston to the King for recovery of Caister, 766.

1476.

17 Jan. Death of the Duke of Norfolk, 768.
21 Jan. Sir John Paston gone up to London to petition the King about Caister, 769.
23 Jan. Sir John Paston's "sending to Caister" is ill taken, 770, 771, 772.
2 Mar. John Paston recommends Richard Stratton to Lord Hastings, 773.
John Paston to [Margery Brews]—a love letter, 774.
12 Mar. Sir John Paston crosses with Hastings to Calais, 775.
21 Mar. Lord Rivers at Rome, 776.
Conquest of Lorraine by Charles the Bold, 776.
6 May. John Paston welcomes his brother Sir John again to England, 777.
John Paston thinks of Mr. Fitzwalter's sister, 777.
27 May. The King has promised that Sir J. Paston shall have Caister, 778.

1477.

5 Jan. *Defeat and death of Charles the Bold at Nanci*, 786.
Letters about John Paston and Margery Brews, 780-5.
14 Feb. Great council begun yesterday, 786.
8 Mar. Dame Eliz. Brews desires to meet Margaret Paston at Norwich, and not at Langley, 787.
8 Mar. Terms offered by Sir Thomas Brews, 788, 790, 791.

1477.

9 Mar. The "matter of Mrs Barly," 789.
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Sir J. Paston refuses to help his brother's marriage, 795, 802.
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14 April. Lewis XI. has gained many of the Duke of Burgundy's towns, 798.
23 June. Debt of Sir J. Paston to Henry Colet, 800.
7 Aug. Manor of Sporle mortgaged to Townsend, 802, 803.
11 Aug. Margaret Paston will not pay Sir John Paston's debt to Cocket, 803.
Sir J. Paston to pay his brother William's board and school-hire, 803.
17 Aug. *Lewis XI. besieges St. Omer's, and burns Cassel*, 804.
22 Aug. Manors of Agnes and William Paston, 805.
31 Oct. Sir John Paston's will, 806.
19 Nov. Wreck at Winterton—Sir J. Paston's claims as lord of the manor, 807, 808.
18 Dec. Margery Paston with child, 809.

1478.

21 Jan. Dr. Yotton and the chapel at Caister, 811.
Marriage of Richard, Duke of York, and Anne Mowbray, 811.
John Paston going to take his wife Margery to see her father, 811.
3 Feb. Dr. Pykenham now Judge of the Arches, 812.
A match for Edmund Paston, 812.
A present of dates from Margery Paston to her mother-in-law Margaret, 812.
18 Feb. *Execution of the Duke of Clarence.*
21 Mar. Constance Reynforth to Sir John Paston, 813.
5 May. Woods at Hellesdon and Drayton, 814.
The Duke of Suffolk's claim there, 814, 815.
13 May. Tomb of John Paston the father not begun, 815.
The King buying cloth of gold, 815.
19 May. Walter Paston at Oxford, 816.
20 May. The Duke of Suffolk at Hellesdon, 817.
William Worcester and Sir William Bocking, 817.
Margaret Paston very ill, 817.
27 May. Margaret Paston sends cloth of gold for her husband's tomb, 818.
Sir J. Paston's claim in Hellesdon and Drayton, 818.
Sir J. Paston going to marry a kinswoman of the Queen, 818.
31 July. Oxnead Parsonage, 810-822, 828.

1478.

25 Aug. Birth of John Paston's son Christopher, 821.
The Duke of Buckingham going on pilgrimage to Walsingham, 821.
William Brandon a ravisher, 821.
The Earl of Oxford at Hammes, 821.
7 Nov. William Paston, junior, at Eton, 824, 827.

1479.

18 Jan. Errands to Marlingford, 825.
2 Feb. Dr. Pykenham informs Margaret Paston that her son Walter is not yet qualified to hold a benefice, 826.
4 Mar. Walter Paston ready to take his B.A., and proceed in law, 829.
22 May. He would be inceptor before Midsummer, 830.
30 June. He takes his degree, 831.
7 July. Plate of William Paston, 832, 835.
18 Aug. Will of Walter Paston, 834.
21 Aug. Deaths of Agnes Paston and Walter, 836.
26 Aug. William Paston claims the manor of Marlingford, 837.
Sir J. Paston inquires about his grandmother's will, 838.
29 Oct. Sir J. Paston's dispute with Suffolk, &c., 840.
He is very ill, 840.
Bishop Morton offers to mediate between him and his uncle William, 840, 841.
6 Nov. The tenants at Crowmer know not who shall be their lord, 841.
25 Nov. Money received and spent at the manor court at Cressingham, 845.
Nov. Death and burial of Sir John Paston, 846.
John Paston wishes his brother Edmund to enter Marlingford, &c. in his name, 846.
Proceedings of Edmund Paston at Marlingford and Oxnead, 847.
Dec. The great mortality abated, 849.
Bishop Morton promises to favour John Paston against his uncle, 849.
Injuries done to John Paston by his uncle William, 850.

1479-80.

Touching a tombstone for Sir John Paston, 851.
Inventory of plate, 852.

1480.

24 Feb. William Paston to John King, farmer of Harwelbury, 854.
John, Prior of Bromholm, to John Paston, desiring him to procure of the Queen timber for his "dortour," 856.

About 1481?

Edmund Paston will see a widow in Worsted for his brother William, 858.
Edmund Paston desires his mother's forgiveness that he and his wife have not waited on her, 859.

1482.

4 Feb. Margaret Paston's will, 861.
John Paston to his mother about her will, 862.
1 Nov. Tenants of Marlingford molested by William Paston's officers, 865, 866.
Declaration of William Barker and Margaret, widow of William Worcester, in behalf of William Paston, 867.
Inventory of John Paston's books, 869.
Verses by a lady to an absent lord, 870.

EDWARD V.

1483.

11 June. Richard, Duke of Gloucester, to Lord Nevill, desiring him to come up to London with a body of men, 874.
Elizabeth, Duchess of Suffolk, to John Paston, requesting him to leave his lodging for a few days, 875.

RICHARD III.

10 Oct. The Duke of Norfolk to John Paston on an insurrection in the Weald of Kent, 876.
Oct. *The Duke of Buckingham's rebellion.*

1484.

1 May. An order by the Duke of Suffolk to a farmer to pay money, 879.
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4 Nov. Death of Margaret Paston, 881.
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1485.

23 June. *Proclamation of Richard III. against Henry Tudor*, 883.
1 Aug. *The Earl of Richmond lands at Milford Haven*, 884.
22 Aug. *The Battle of Bosworth.*

1485.

HENRY VII.

23 Sept. Dame Elizabeth Browne to John Paston about her father Judge Paston's death, 885.

3 Oct. The Countess of Surrey complains to J. Paston that her husband's servants have been discharged by Lord Fitzwalter, 886.

20 Oct. Proclamations ordered against rebels confederated with the Scots, 887.

1486.

24 Feb. Alice, Lady Fitzhugh, to John Paston about her "daughter Lovel's" suit for her husband, 889.

19 May. *Viscount Lovel escaped into the Isle of Ely*, 890.

1487.

24 Jan. Lord Lovel's adherents, 892.

The Prior of Norwich touching a bequest of Judge Paston to his monastery, 893.

May. *Rebellion of Lambert Simnel*, 894, 895.

16 June. *Battle of Stoke.*

Dame Elizabeth Brews to Sir J. Paston for twelve men in harness to recover a distress, 896.

1488?

The Bishop of Chester asks of widows more than they can pay, 897.

1486–95.

Sir J. Paston to Dame Margery, his wife, for a plaster for the King's attorney, James Hobart, 898.

1487–1502.

The Queen to the Earl of Oxford touching the claim of Sir J. Paston to the manor of Hemnals in Cotton, 899.

Sir J. Howard and Debenham intend to "set on" Cotton, 900.

1488.

Sir Edward Woodville goes over unauthorised to aid the Duke of Brittany, 904.

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1489.

2 Feb. A whale taken off Thornham, 906, 907.

7 Mar. The Earl of Northumberland agrees with the King about keeping out the Scots, 908.

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1486-9.

Edmund Paston appointed receiver of lands of Lord Scales, 911, 912.

1489.

22 April. Henry VII. to the Earl of Oxford—*favourable news of the war in Brittany*, 913.

28 April. *Insurrection in Yorkshire—the Earl of Northumberland killed*, 914, 916.

6 May. Sir J. Paston ordered to meet the King at Cambridge with a body of men, 915, 916.

1490.

27 Jan. Sherwood, Bishop of Durham, to Sir John Paston, 917.

Humorous petition of Sir J. Paston to Lord Fitzwalter, 919.

The Earl of Surrey certifies that Thomas Hartford is not a Scotchman, 920.

1491.

6 April. Complaints of the King of Denmark against English ships resorting to Iceland, 922.

[Sept.] The old and new Bailiffs of Yarmouth ask Sir J Paston's mediation with the Earl of Oxford, 924.

Oct. The Earl of Oxford to Sir J. Paston about Richard Barkeley and his ship, 925-7.

1492.

18 Feb. Preparations for the invasion of France, 929, 930.

30 April. William Barnard to William Paston complaining that he has been obliged to keep a prisoner at his own cost, 931.

1492-3.

Letters of Elizabeth, Duchess of Norfolk, in behalf of Thomas Martin, 932-3.

1493.

Proposal of Sir R. Clere for the marriage of Sir J. Paston's son, 934.

1494.

Nov. *Creation of the King's second son as Duke of York*—Knights of the Bath made on the occasion, 935.

1495.

3 July. *Attempt of Perkin Warbeck to land at Deal*, 936, 937.

Young William Paston at Sir J. Fortescue's place on account of the plague at Cambridge, 938.

1495.

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OF

NAMES, PLACES, SUBJECTS,

AND

OBSOLETE WORDS.

In this Index all well-known places will be found under their modern spelling, and where a surname of a person occurs in the Letters spelt in various ways, it should be looked for under that spelling which is nearest to modern usage. Cross references, however, are given in the case of surnames from all the variations, except when the difference between any two forms is so inconsiderable that they would naturally be found in the same place in the Index. Names spelt with *y* in the text are, for convenience, spelt with *i* in the Index, wherever they would be so spel according to ordinary modern usage.

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Zouche, Will., i. 330.

PUBLISHERS' NOTE

All the errata noted by the Editor in the last edition have been corrected, with the exception of the following:—

VOL. I

Page 71.—The preliminary note to Letter 58 is wrong. As the letter is dated from Mautby, the writer must be Edmund, the son of John and Margaret Paston, not the brother of that John Paston.

Pages 177-181, Nos. 134, 135.—See corrections of date and other particulars with regard to these two letters in Vol. II., Nos. 430, 431.

Page 368, No. 265.—This note should have been omitted.

VOL. III

Page 202, Note 2 is wrong, as Ponton de Xantrailles died in 1461.

Page 242.—I have been favoured by Lady Beatrice Pretyman with a facsimile from the original MS. of the lines at the head of this page, and the true reading of the first two lines appears to me to be:—

> "Quæritur quod non valet hora, valet mora.
> "Unde di'" [*qu.* dicendum est?].

The first line must be a theme given out at school. "Unde di'" (whereof it is to be said) is the preface to the young scholar's answer.

Page 389.—The Preliminary Note to No. 939 is wrong in some points, especially in the words 'by whom she had a daughter, Isabel'; for it appears this Isabel was the daughter of Dame Agnes Paston's *first* husband, Nicholas Morley. See *Notes and Queries*, 5th Ser. ix. 205, 326, 350, 370, 414, 512; x. 32, 110. It also appears that the date of this letter is undoubtedly 1503—that is to say, it was written after the death of John Legh of Addington in April of that year, and before that of the writer, Sir John Paston, in September.